



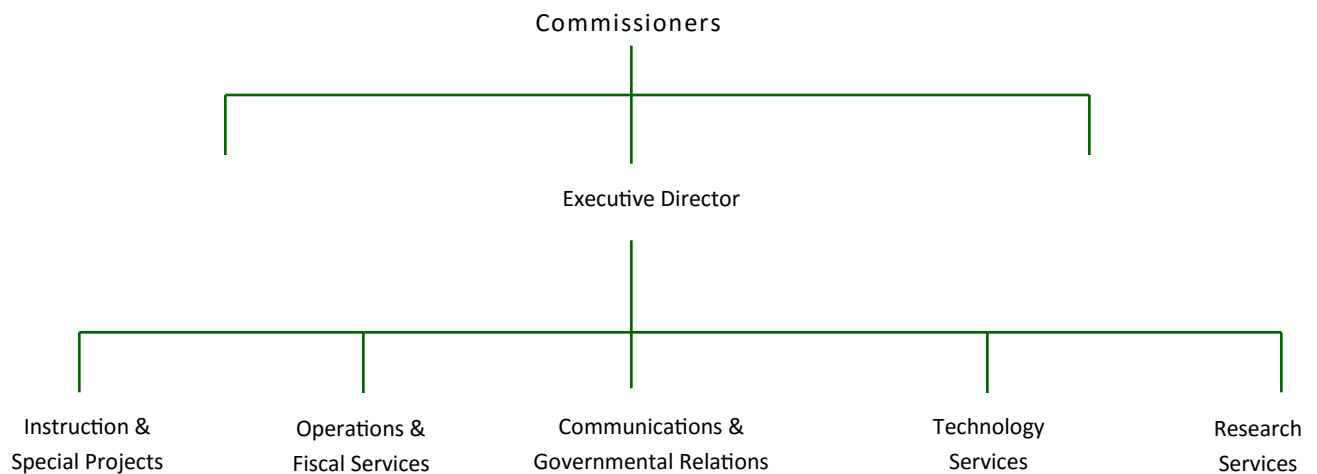
# Annual Report 2015-2016

**Alabama  
Commission on Higher Education**

## Mission Statement

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education, a statewide 12-member lay board appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate, is the state agency responsible for the overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, the administration of various student aid programs and the performance of designated regulatory functions. The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students and the goals of institutions. The agency also provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the state.

Note: The planning/coordination/designated regulatory functions of the Commission are limited to public sector institutions.



### Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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[www.ache.alabama.gov](http://www.ache.alabama.gov)



@ACHE\_Research

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# Alabama Two-Year Public Institutions

## Community Colleges

Alabama Southern Community College  
Bevill State Community College  
Bishop State Community College  
Calhoun Community College  
Central Alabama Community College  
Chattahoochee Valley Community College  
Drake State Community and Technical College  
Enterprise State Community College  
Faulkner State Community College  
Gadsden State Community College  
Jefferson Davis Community College  
Jefferson State Community College  
Lawson State Community College  
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College  
Marion Military Institute  
Northeast Alabama Community College  
Northwest-Shoals Community College  
Shelton State Community College  
Snead State Community College  
Southern Union State Community College  
Trenholm State Community College  
Wallace Community College (Dothan)  
Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)  
Wallace State Community College (Selma)



## Technical Colleges

Ingram State Technical College  
Reid State Technical College



# Alabama Four-Year Public Institutions



Alabama A&M University

Alabama State University

Athens State University

Auburn University

Auburn University at Montgomery

Jacksonville State University

Troy University

University of Alabama

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Alabama in Huntsville

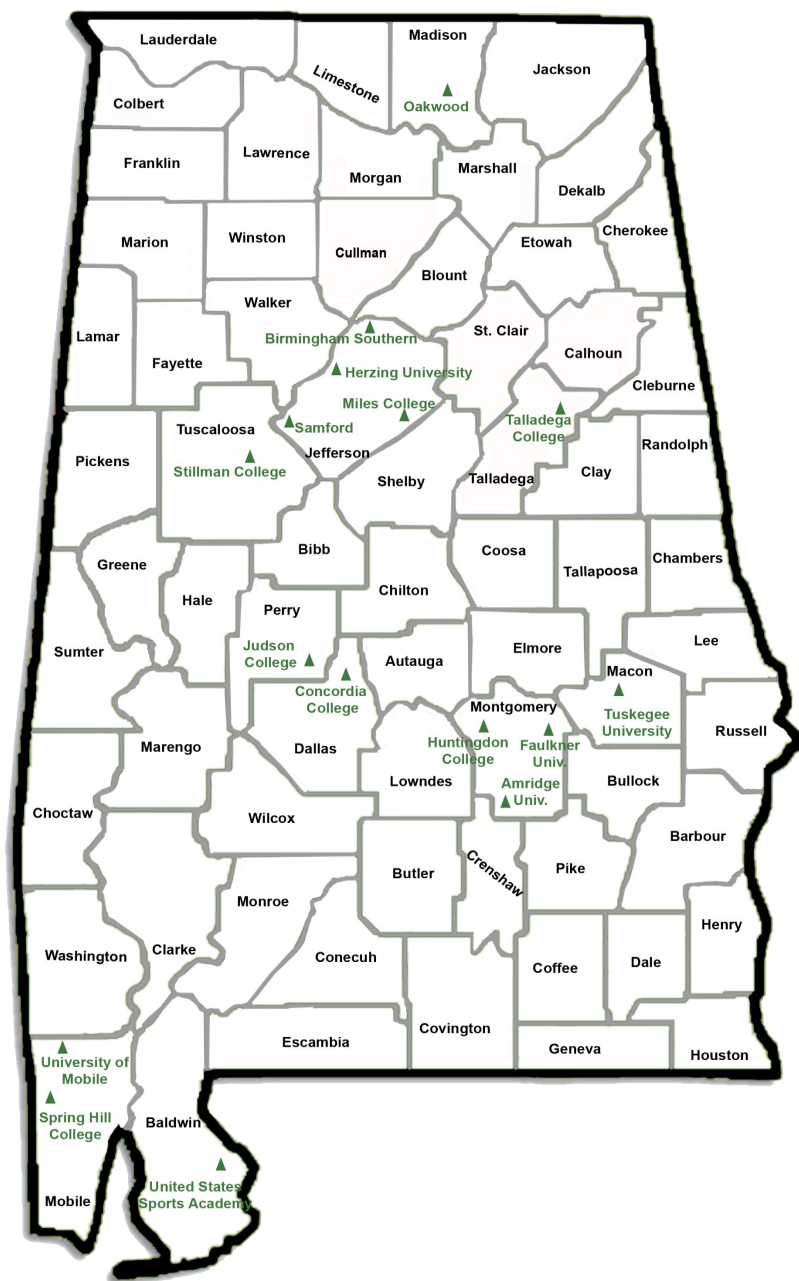
University of Montevallo

University of North Alabama

University of South Alabama

University of West Alabama

# Alabama Non-Profit Independent Institutions



Amridge University

Birmingham-Southern College

Concordia College

Faulkner University

Herzing University

Huntingdon College

Judson College

Miles College

Oakwood University

Samford University

Spring Hill College

Stillman College

Talladega College

Tuskegee University

United States Sports Academy

University of Mobile

## *Message from Chairman Larry J. Hughes*

As chairman of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), I am pleased to transmit to Governor Robert Bentley and to the Alabama Legislature the 2015-16 annual report. My term on the Commission has seen many changes in higher education from the delivery of services to student support.

The Commission has played a vital role in coordinating higher education amidst this ever-changing climate, coupled with the responsibility of introducing several new commissioners to their role on a higher education coordinating board. As I pass the chairman's gavel, I have tremendous respect for the future leadership that will be provided by Chairman Ball and Vice Chairman McKinney during these challenging times in the educational field.

During 2015-16, the Commission continued to meet statutory responsibilities that included the approval of new academic and off-campus instructional programs and the maintenance of the Alabama Statewide Student Database, which contains over 10 million student records. This data has provided numerous reports to not only educational entities, but to the public and workforce development groups throughout the state.

There cannot be enough emphasis put on ACHE's commitment to student success. This continues to be evident each year in working with the legislature to increase student financial assistance. Fiscal year 2016-17 will see more

students receiving financial help due to an increase in state allocations for the Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP), the Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP), the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program and the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program.

Additionally, the State Humanities Program, a line item in the Commission's budget, was increased to enhance support for educational activities associated with Alabama's Bicentennial Celebration.

A law was passed during the 2015 legislative session for Alabama to join the National Council State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA) which makes distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines. Earlier this year, the Commission was designated as the state portal agent to review and approve qualified public and private Alabama institutions to operate outside of Alabama under NC-SARA. According to the agreement, any non-Alabama institution, providing courses and programs within the state, will be subject to the same review process as Alabama colleges and universities.

## *Message from Chairman Larry J. Hughes*

The Commission has been very visible at the local level through involvement in educational forums and meetings. The Commission is represented on the boards of the Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (PACT) and the 529 College Savings Program. ACHE also is directly engaged in efforts to bring industry and better educational

opportunities to the state by serving on the Alabama Workforce Development Board and the Blackbelt Education and Blackbelt Workforce committees. These efforts reinforce the Commission's position in serving all students who will benefit from Alabama's educational system as well-prepared graduates entering the workforce.



*Outgoing chairman, Larry Hughes, (L) is presented with a plaque of appreciation by incoming chairman, Charles Ball (R).*

## Commissioners



**Larry J. Hughes**  
**Chairman**

*President,  
Ichtus CONSULTING, Inc.*

*Third Congressional District*

Chairman Larry J. Hughes was appointed to represent the Third Congressional District on the Commission by Governor Bob Riley. Chairman Hughes is the founder and president of Ichtus CONSULTING, Inc. (ICON), serving physicians and healthcare facilities across the United States. He holds an undergraduate degree from Troy State University and an MPA with a healthcare concentration from Auburn University.

A champion for students, during his tenure as chairman, ACHE received increased funding for fiscal year 2016-17 to aid students in the Alabama Student Assistance Program, the Alabama Student Grant Program, the Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program and the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program.

*"It is imperative that we make higher education a priority in Alabama."*

The Alabama Statewide Student Database now contains over 10 million student records. As a business leader, Chairman Hughes has been a proponent of utilizing this student data for comprehensive reports targeted to the needs of industry.

An at-large seat on the Commission is held by Governor Riley appointee Charles Ball who serves as vice chairman. He is the executive director for the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. He has an extensive background in municipal government planning that includes Gadsden, Auburn and Albany, Georgia. His educational degrees include a bachelor of arts degree in Business Administration from Birmingham-Southern and a master of Community Planning from Auburn University.



**Charles Ball**  
**Vice Chairman**

*Executive Director,  
Regional Planning Commission  
of Greater Birmingham*

*At-Large Member*



## Commissioners



**Charles Buntin**

*Shareholder/Realtor,  
Tom West Company  
Second Congressional District*



**Karen Calametti, MD**

*President of  
Children's Medical Group  
First Congressional District*



**Darius Foster**

*Director of  
Corporate Solutions  
Seventh Congressional District*



**Miranda Bouldin Frost**

*President and CEO of  
LogiCore Corporation  
Fifth Congressional District*



**Timothy Gyan**

*Vice President with  
Regions Financial Corporation  
Sixth Congressional District*

## Commissioners



**William R. Jones, Jr.**

*Governmental Relations Officer  
Retired*

*At-Large Member*



**Patricia W. McGriff**

*Retired  
Educator*

*Fourth Congressional District*



**Randy McKinney**

*Attorney with  
McKinney & Associates P.C.  
Owner,  
Realty Executives Gulf Coast*

*At-Large Member*



**Stan R. Pylant**

*President and General Manager  
WHNT-TV*

*At-Large Member*



**Charles E. Sanders, Jr.**

*Attorney,  
Maddox, Thornley and Sanders*

*At-Large Member*

## Executive Director's Report

A status report on *Forging Strategic Alliances: State Plan for Higher Education 2009-2014* was presented to commissioners during the September Commission meeting. The format was designed to suggest benchmarks which could be used to create new goals and objectives that could be measured. As work begins on the new state plan, this concept will continue with input from educators, business/industry representatives and legislators to determine the strengths and deficiencies in key areas within Alabama's higher education system. This variety of participants selected for the planning process will give ACHE a neutral blueprint for the future.

Early in the 2016 legislative session, a bill was introduced to create a Longitudinal Data System (LDS) which would link data from PK through

employment. Concerns surrounding the security of personnel data plagued the legislation throughout the session, killing it in on the Senate floor the last day. However, plans are to re-introduce the measure during 2017 with more discussions on whether a federated model or a data warehouse system would be most plausible.

The legislature continues to turn to ACHE to serve as the fiscal agent for 20 programs, agencies and organizations which receive line item funding through the Commission's budget. All four state student financial aid programs administered by ACHE were given increases in the 2016 session.

ACHE continues to partner with entities throughout the state with staff membership on committees and boards aimed at serving students and ensuring a stable workforce.



Gregory G. Fitch



## Executive Director's Report

The student data system continues to grow in number, as well as requests for reports by outside groups working on educational and economic issues. ACHE continues to see interest in its website and data with approximately 40,000 hits and material downloads a month. As the state coordinator for the Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System (IPEDS), the growing interest in outside the state student data (National Clearinghouse) and movement towards a national educational reciprocity program, data has become a key to our services.

In the 2015 legislative session, an ACT (law) was passed allowing Alabama to participate in State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) in membership as part of a national council. Participation allows Alabama's colleges and universities to offer courses/programs through distance education outside the state at a reduced cost to the institution. The same opportunity is

provided through membership for non-Alabama institutions to operate here. During 2015, 289 institutions offered thousands of courses/programs to Alabama residents through non-resident degree offerings. ACHE has been designated the "Portal" for SARA and anticipates operating in 2016 under the agreement and law.

Membership in the Commission's ranks has changed dramatically over the year. Due to delayed appointments, terms ending and a state set "aging out" requirement, the Commission saw five new members confirmed and/or appointed. The appointments bring a new dynamic and expertise to the Commission that will help advance the development of the next strategic state plan.

In all, 2015 was a year of challenge and change. However, the foundation has been laid and 2017 should be a year of continued change and forward movement.



(L) State Treasurer Young Boozer (R) ACHE Executive Director Gregory Fitch at a CollegeCounts 529 meeting.

## *Research Services*

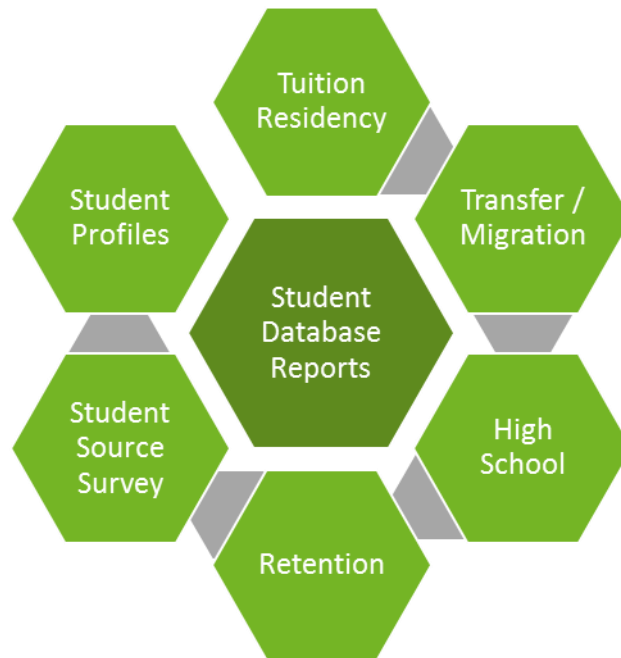
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### **State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Student Database)**

In 1996, the Alabama Legislature amended the Commission's statute to require the Commission to obtain specific information from each two- and four-year public institution of higher education so as to establish a student unit record data system (Act 1996, No. 96-509, p. 647). The Alabama Statewide Student Database contains a combined total of over 10 million student records submitted during the past 18 years from public institutions and over 120,000 student records submitted from Alabama Independent Colleges.

From this data, the Commission produces multiple reports. The following Student Database reports may be viewed on the ACHE website at: <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/StudentDB>.

# Research Services



## **Tuition Residency Report**

Provides summary information on the types of tuition paid by students.

## **Transfer/Migration Report**

Identifies the number of students who have transferred to and from Alabama public institutions.

## **High School Report**

Identifies the number of high school graduates who enrolled in Alabama public institutions of higher education in Fall 2015. The report also provides the number of students who took remedial math and/or remedial English courses. Two other versions of this report also indicate the number of students from each high school who enrolled in each Alabama college/university.

## **Retention Report**

Tracks first-time degree-seeking freshmen students for enrollment and completions.

## **Student Source Survey Reports**

These are a series of enrollment reports created based on the state, county and country of origin of the student at the time they initially enroll at an institution. Subtotals are provided for each two- and four-year public institution with categories for undergraduate, first-time freshmen, transfer students, and graduate students.

Reports are created using fall semester enrollment data and are used extensively to determine ratio of in-state and out-of-state students for recruiting and planning purposes. Statewide summary reports also are created each year to provide annual comparisons across the various categories.

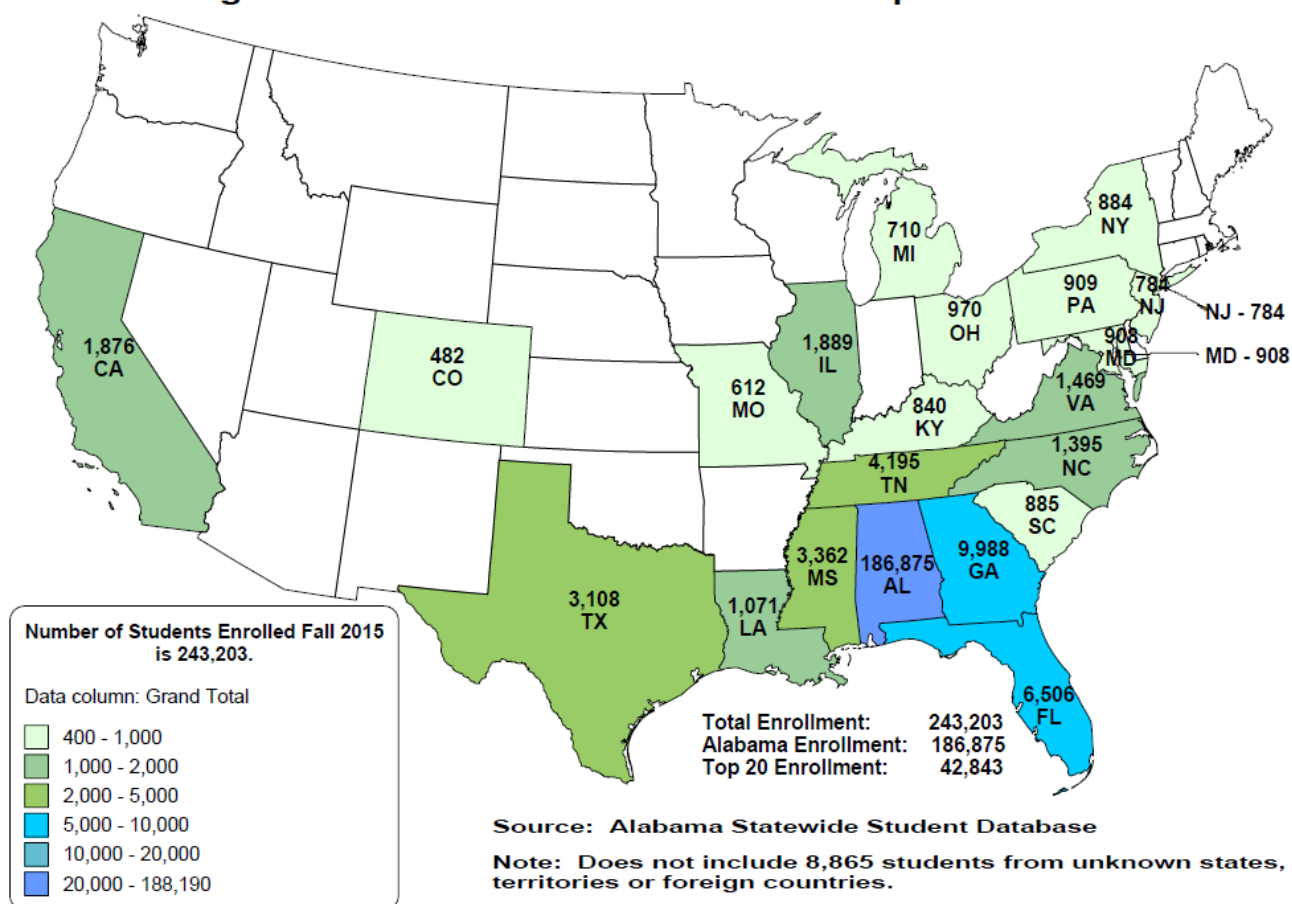
## Research Services

### Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2015

[www.ache.alabama.gov/Profiles](http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Profiles)

The web version provides links to the original sourcing reports and includes links to maps that offer added visual interpretation of this data. In 2016, the Commission published the 12th graphic summary of demographic information about the student populations of Alabama's public two- and four-year institutions. This document represents data from the 18th year of data collection and includes historical summaries of enrollment over these years.

### Fall 2015 Enrollment in Alabama Public Colleges and Universities Including Students from Alabama and the Top 20 Feeder States

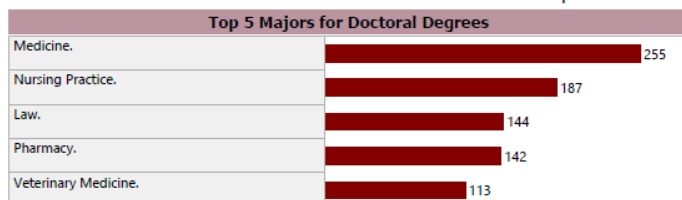


## Research Services

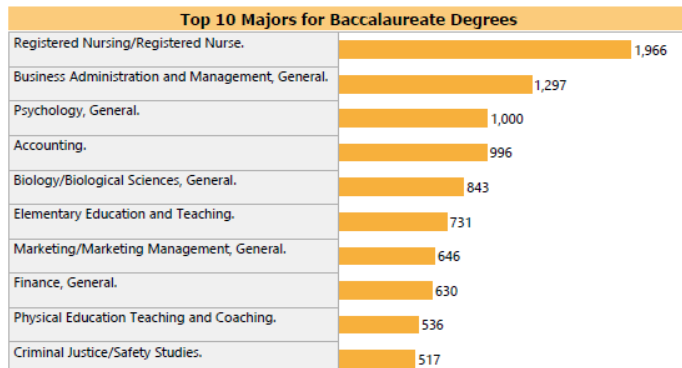
The *Fall 2015 Student Profiles* included data from six private institutions: Faulkner University, Huntingdon College, Judson College, Spring Hill College, University of Mobile and U.S. Sports Academy. The inclusion of this data provides a more comprehensive look at the overall picture of higher education in Alabama. The *Fall 2015 Student Profiles* also included a nine-year history of Top Degrees Conferred from 2007-15. Business and industry constituents are especially interested in these types of data regarding potential workforce in the state. The *Profiles* also included historical reports regarding remediation, college enrollment, race/ethnicity and gender.

The source of information released in this report, *Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2015*, was the Alabama Statewide Student Database and all data included was published previously by the Commission in other formats: the Tuition Eligibility Report, the Retention Report, the Transfer/Migration Report, the Student Source Survey Reports, the Institutional Summary Reports and the Completions Summary Reports.

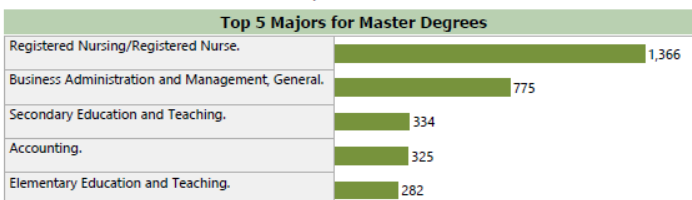
ACHE Summary of 2014-2015 Completions by Major and Level for All Public Institutions  
(Total Number of Completions at Alabama Public Institutions was 49,150)\*



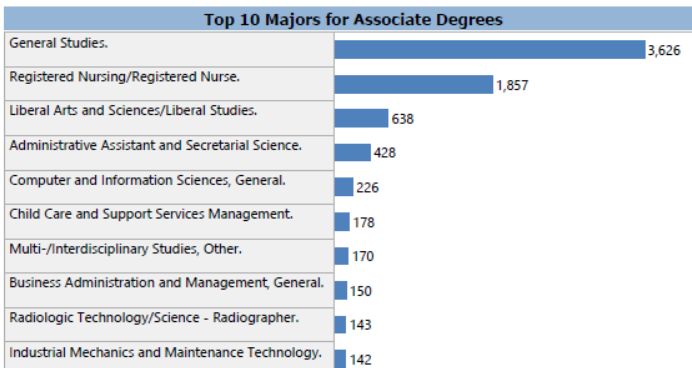
Number of doctoral degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 1,938.



Number of baccalaureate degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 22,111.



Number of master degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 8,392.



Number of associate degrees completed at Alabama public institutions was 9,806.

\*The total number of completions includes other award levels that are not depicted in these charts.

## Research Services

### Data Collaboration throughout the State

Staff of the Research Services unit has been involved in various activities this year that fostered data collaboration throughout the state in an effort to inform the public and improve education for the citizens of the state. One of the most recent activities just begun involves opportunity to work with the institutions, Articulation Steering Committee and Chief Academic Officers regarding credit transfer for Alabama students who have taken AP exams.

Staff of the Research Services unit has also been involved in meetings with the Governor's Alabama Workforce Council, Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Community College System (ACCS), the Alabama Department of Labor, the Governor's Office, Legislators and staff from Balch and Bingham regarding proposed legislation for a Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems. Although the legislation did not pass, ACHE staff was appointed to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Longitudinal Data System, so ACHE will continue to be part of this project.

### Statistical Abstract

<http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/AgencyRpt/Reports.aspx>

The Commission staff publishes various reports throughout the year, e.g. the Student Source Survey and Tuition Eligibility Report, from data made available to the State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Student Database). The Statistical Abstract includes information on student enrollments and completions, faculty salaries, institutional facilities and tuition and fees for Alabama's two- and four-year institutions.

### Financial Aid Reports

ACHE staff members have compiled a new series of reports based on IPEDS data institutions provided to the United States Department of Education regarding financial aid received at Alabama institutions during Fall 2014. Those reports are found in the Statistical Abstract at <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/AgencyRpt/Reports.aspx>

### Data Collection Requirements of the Federal Government

<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds>

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) reports are submitted throughout the year to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the United States Department of Education (USDE) as required by law. The Commission has been designated as the state coordinator of IPEDS data for Alabama's public and private institutions. Under provisions of this federal mandate, the Commission reviews certain information from each institution of higher education. The scope of each report is determined by the federal government and may vary from year to year. Principal report topics include the following: institutional characteristics, human resources, student enrollment, student completions, student financial aid, graduation rates and institutional financial reports.

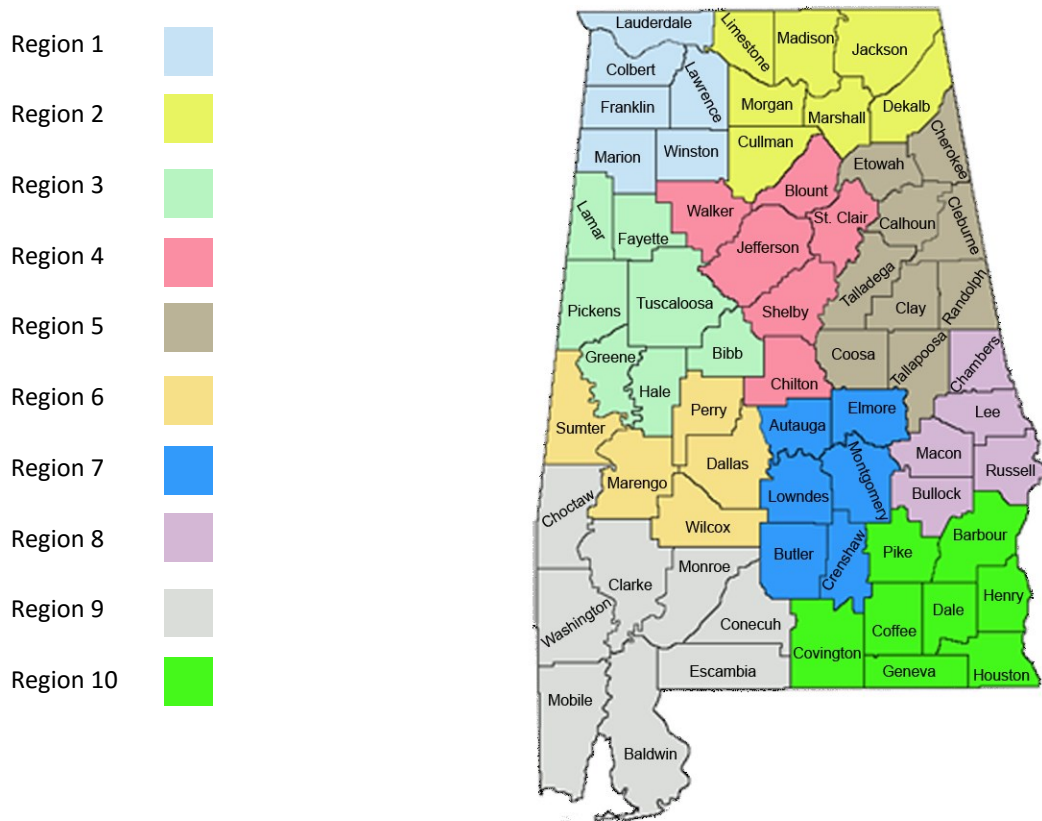


# Research Services

## Workforce Brochures

ACHE staff members reformatted and updated workforce brochures for each workforce region identifying top areas of enrollment and completions, by major, for each of the 10 workforce regions in the state. Those brochures are 'easy to print' and are available online at <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Workforce>. A statewide brochure is also available for easy comparison to individual workforce regions.

## Workforce by Region



# Technology Services

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During the past year Technology Services implemented computer processing changes to improve the operation of the agency. Several upgrades and systems are now in place in addition to ongoing projects.

ACHE has continued to track areas of interest and documents using “Google Analytics” that support future enhancements to the site. The ACHE website has an average of 25,000 hits per month with over 2,500 educational documents downloaded each month. A continuous effort is made to make the website more user-friendly. As an example, the “Table of Contents” that are contained in the Commission meeting packets from 2004 through the present, were combined into a searchable document that allows users to identify key items addressed at Commission meetings.

An aging server was replaced and upgraded to the latest operating system and application software. This continues a challenging goal of being state-of-the-art in all areas of ACHE processing. Staying current is a difficult and time-consuming task due to the complexity of software and operating system impacts on current applications caused by the upgrades. The upgrades included meeting the latest Microsoft standards in processing, database management and security protocols. ACHE continued to streamline tasks by developing database procedures to automate numerous Student Database reports. One example was completion of a task to automate 30 Student Source Survey reports. Once a lengthy and labor-intensive process, these reports can now be completed within a day versus six weeks.

During 2016, ACHE’s computers were upgraded to Windows 10 and the latest version of

Microsoft Office. All servers were migrated to the latest server operating system, database management system and program development software. This was a major undertaking and demonstrates ACHE’s ability to adapt to an ever-changing environment.

The agency internal instant messaging system was replaced by a new up-to-date communication system. Also, an enhanced data backup system was incorporated into daily operations to ensure data/system recovery from both a hardware and software failure stand point.

ACHE continues to support the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) database management system, which provides the following:

- A comprehensive automated database renewal/addition process, which is user-friendly
- Automated statistics of current/previous database costs, percent change and NAAL savings

The continued production of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund reports is required under a grant from the federal government as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These reports provide feedback on public high school graduates that enrolled in institutions of higher education and the progress they made within a specific time frame.



## Technology Services

A centrally managed antivirus and malware system was put into operation and runs continuously to ensure security updates are current on all ACHE servers and desktop computers.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology Risk Management Framework, the Federal cybersecurity standard, was put into practice to meet Alabama's Office of Information Technology mandates to safe guard the State's information and information systems. ACHE was the first education entity nationally and the first agency in Alabama to meet this Federal standard. This effort greatly enhances the protection of student data. As part of our enhanced security program, a camera surveillance system was added to the ACHE data center.

According to the Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), the United States Department of Education "one-stop" resource for data privacy, confidentiality and security practices, ACHE is on the leading edge in the educational environment in documenting and developing strong security and privacy policy for information systems.

ACHE developed and implemented a new comprehensive grant management system. This replaced an outdated system maintained by the Department of Finance, which was no longer supported due to the State implementation of a new financial system (STAARS).



*Mr. Tom Willard  
makes a presentation at the March Commission Meeting.*

## *Instructional Activities*

*Dr. Leonard Lock*  
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The Commission's instructional staff reviewed and prepared staff recommendations in support of the Commission's statutory responsibility concerning units of instruction. These activities included the review of proposed new programs and units of instruction for public higher education institutions. The staff evaluated proposed changes to existing units of instruction and maintained the Commission's Academic Program Inventory. New program's post-implementation procedures were evaluated regarding particular program enrollments, number of graduates, program assessment of student learning outcomes and graduate's success in attaining employment related to the program field of study.

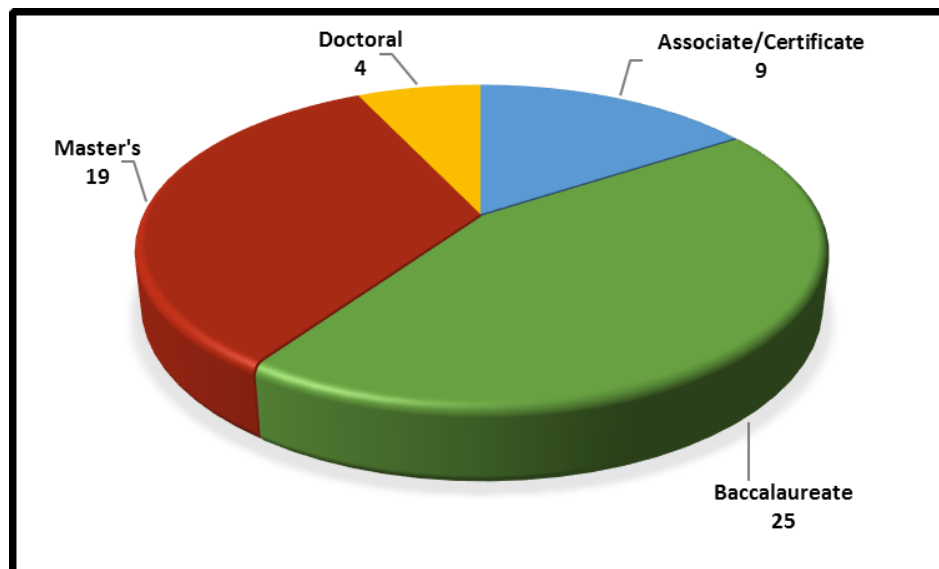
There were 275 instructional decision or information items brought to the Commission during 2016. The previous year had 300 while 232 were presented to the Commission during 2014. The fewer number from 2015 to 2016 related to 36 fewer two-year college short certificates. More detailed instructional activities information is provided on the following pages.

# Instructional Activities

## New Academic Programs by Degree Levels

By statute the Commission on Higher Education is given the responsibility of approving new units of instruction, including new academic programs. The Commission reviewed and approved 57 proposals for new programs, 49 at senior institutions and eight at two-year institutions. The previous fiscal year, 2014-15, the Commission reviewed and approved 42 proposals (a 36% increase).

The Commission approved the statement of intent regarding the consolidation-merger of Central Alabama Community College, Chattahoochee Valley Community College and Southern Union State Community College.



### Alabama State University

- BA/BS in Interdisciplinary Studies

### Athens State University

- BS in Information Technology
- BS Ed in Educational Studies
- MEd in Career and Technical Education
- BA in Drama & Theatre Arts

### Auburn University

- BS in Food Science
- BCS (Bachelor of Computer Science) in Computer Science
- MSW in Social Work

### Auburn University at Montgomery

- BS in Communication Disorders
- MS in Applied Economics
- BSBA (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration) in Entrepreneurship
- MS in Healthcare Informatics and Leadership
- BFA in Art

### Jacksonville State University

- DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice)
- MS in Instructional Technology
- MSW in Social Work

### University of Alabama

- DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice)

# Instructional Activities

## New Academic Programs at Universities . . . (continued)

### University of Alabama at Birmingham

- MAEd (Master of Arts in Education) in School Psychometry
- MS in Health Physics
- DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice)
- MSW in Clinical/Medical Social Work
- BS in Human Resources Management
- BA in Computer and Information Sciences
- BS in Immunology
- BS in Digital Forensics
- BS in Genetics and Genomic Sciences
- MA in the Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights

### University of Alabama in Huntsville

- BS/BA in Professional Studies
- DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice)
- MA in Professional Communications

### University of Montevallo

- BA/BS in Environmental Studies

### University of North Alabama

- BA in German
- BA in French
- BA in Spanish
- BS in Geographic Information Science (GIS)
- BS in Exercise Science
- BS in Sport and Recreation Management
- MA in Writing

### University of West Alabama

- MS in Conservation Biology
- BA/BS in Public Safety
- BA/BS in Sport Management
- BA/BS in Health Sciences
- AAS in Automotive Engineering Technology
- MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- MS in Guidance and Counseling
- MS in Family Counseling
- MAT (Master of Athletic Training)
- MS in Physical Education
- MEd in Student Affairs in Higher Education

## New Academic Programs at Two-Year Institutions

### Bevill State Community College

- AAS and Certificate in Salon and Spa Management

### Gadsden State Community College

- AAS and Certificate in Salon and Spa Management
- AAS and Certificate in Occupational Therapy Assistant

### Northeast Alabama Community College

- AAS and Certificate in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

### Shelton State Community College

- AAS in Auto Mechanics
- AAS and Certificate in Logistics/Supply Chain Management

### Trenholm State Community College

- AS in Transfer Associate in Science
- AA in Transfer Associate in Arts

## *Instructional Activities*

### Two-Year Institutions Mergers/Consolidations

#### **Central Alabama Community College, Chattahoochee Valley Community College and Southern Union State Community College**

- Statement of Intent Regarding the Consolidation-Merger of Central Alabama Community College, Chattahoochee Valley Community College and Southern Union State Community College

#### **Faulkner State Community College, Jefferson Davis Community College and Alabama Southern Community College**

- Statement of Intent Regarding the Consolidation-Merger of Faulkner State Community College, Jefferson Davis Community College and Alabama Southern Community College
- Administrative and Programmatic Consolidation of Faulkner State Community College, Jefferson Davis Community College and Alabama Southern Community College

### Distance Education Programs Implemented by Alabama Public Institutions

Commission policy states that academic programs approved by the Commission do not require additional approval to be configured and offered as distance education programs. However, institutions preparing to offer existing programs as distance education offerings must report this intent to the Commission prior to implementation. The following institutions notified the Commission of a total of 16 new distance education programs:

#### **Auburn University**

- Early Childhood Education, MS
- Reading Education, MS, MEd
- Spanish Education, MS
- Music Education, MS
- Nursing, BS
- Business Administration, BS
- English for Speakers of Other Languages, MEd
- General Education, EdS

#### **University of Alabama at Birmingham**

- Psychology, BS
- Criminal Justice, BS
- Criminal Justice, MSCJ
- Business Administration, MBA
- Industrial Distribution, BS
- Human Resources Management, BS

#### **University of Montevallo**

- Instructional Leadership, EdS

# Instructional Activities

## Other Instructional Changes

The Commission reviewed and approved 43 extensions and alterations to existing programs. Eighteen institutions (14 universities and four two-year colleges) requested these changes.

### Alabama A&M University

- Addition of a Concentration in Food Science to the existing BS in Food Science
- Addition of a Concentration in Nuclear Power to the existing BSEE in Electrical, Electronics and Communications Engineering

### Alabama State University

- Addition of an option in Pre-Elementary/Elementary Education, Non-Alabama Teacher Certification to the existing MEd in Pre-Elementary Education

### Athens State University

- Addition of an option in Bioinformatics to the existing BS in Biology

### Auburn University

- Alteration of the PhD in Kinesiology
- Alteration of the DVM in Veterinary Medicine
- Alteration of the PhD and MS in Biomedical Sciences

### Auburn University Montgomery

- Addition of an option in Art History to the existing BA in Fine Arts
- Addition of options in Nursing Informatics and Health Systems Leader to the existing joint MSN in Nursing (with Auburn University)

### Calhoun Community College

- Addition of an option in Advanced Manufacturing Technology to the existing AAS in Advanced Manufacturing Technology
- Addition of an option in Industrial Energy Specialist to the existing AAS in Advanced Manufacturing Technology

### Central Alabama Community College

- Addition of a Certificate in General Business to the existing AAS in Business

### Jacksonville State University

- Addition of a Concentration in Community Nutrition to the existing BS in Family and Consumer Sciences
- Addition of a Concentration in Entrepreneurship to the existing BS in Management

### Jefferson State Community College

- Addition of an option in Manufacturing Systems Technology to the existing AAS and Certificate in Manufacturing and Technology

### Lawson State Community College

- Addition of a Primary/Secondary Specialty Area Combination to the existing Associate in Occupational Technologies Program

### Troy University

- Addition of a Concentration in Talent Development and Training to the existing MSM in Management
- Addition of a Concentration in Security Studies to the existing MS in Criminal Justice Administration
- Expansion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to the Dothan campus

# Instructional Activities

## Other Instructional Changes . . . (continued)

### University of Alabama

- Addition of a Concentration in Drawing to the existing BFA/BA in Studio Art
- Addition of a Specialization in New Venture Creation to the existing BSCBA in Business Administration
- Addition of a Track in Italian to the existing BA in Foreign Languages and Literature
- Addition of a Specialization in Archival Studies to the existing MLIS in Library & Information Studies
- Addition of a Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Mental Health for Rural Populations to the existing MSN in Nursing
- Addition of a Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Primary Care for Rural Populations to the existing MSN in Nursing
- Addition of a Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Nurse Administrator to the existing MSN in Nursing

### University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Establishment of the Department of Otolaryngology in the University of Alabama School of Medicine at UAB
- Addition of a Dietitian Education Program Track to the existing MS in Nutrition Sciences
- Addition of Information Engineering, Integrated Systems and Advanced Safety Engineering Program Tracks to the existing PhD in Interdisciplinary Engineering
- Departmental restructuring and renaming in the School of Optometry
- Addition of Tracks in Computational Physics, Applied Physics and Advanced Physics to the existing BS in Physics

### University of Alabama in Huntsville

- Addition of an Option in Art Education to the existing BA in Studio Art
- Establishment of the College of Professional and Continuing Studies

### University of Montevallo

- Addition of a Concentration in Criminology to the existing BA/BS in Sociology

### University of North Alabama

- Addition of an Emphasis in Organizational Leadership to the existing BIS in Interdisciplinary Studies

### University of South Alabama

- Addition of four Concentrations in Performance Brass, Performance Woodwind, Conducting Choral and Conducting Instrumental to the existing MM in Music, General
- Addition of a Concentration in Real Estate to the existing BS in Economics and Finance
- Addition of Concentration in Pre-Professional and Health and Fitness to the existing BS in Physical Education
- Addition of a Concentration in Supply Chain Management to the existing BS in Marketing

### University of West Alabama

- Addition of a Track in Graphic Design to the existing BA/BS in Integrated Marketing Communications
- Addition of a Concentration in Health and Sports Psychology to the existing MS in Experimental Psychology
- Addition of a Track in Creative Writing to the existing BA/BS in English
- Addition of three emphases in Sports Management, Exercise Science and Athletic Training to the Existing MEd/MAT in Physical Education

# Instructional Activities

## Information Items

The Commission recognized 27 changes to the Commission's Academic Program Inventory. These included changes in program name, degree nomenclature, taxonomy code number and/or program status. The Commission accepted information items concerning the implementation of 53 short certificates at two-year colleges and 28 non-degree programs at universities.

The Commission also accepted the following 35 as information items, in accordance with Commission policy.

### **Alabama A&M University**

- Establishment of the Center for Global Service Research
- Establishment of the Center for Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences

### **Alabama State University**

- SACSCOC Board Removal of ASU from Warning Status

### **Auburn University**

- Addition of a Class AA Collaborative Teacher (K-6 & 6-12) Certificate to the EdS in General Education
- Change in the Name of the Department of Aviation and Supply Chain Management to the Department of Systems and Technology

### **Auburn University at Montgomery**

- Establishment of the Department of Communication Disorders within the College of Nursing and Health Sciences

### **Jacksonville State University**

- Establishment of the Center for Autism Studies (CAS)
- Change in the name of the Department of Technology and Engineering to the Department of Applied Engineering
- Change in the name of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation to the Department of Kinesiology
- Change in the name of the Office of Educational Technology and Support to the Office of Teaching, Learning and Technology
- Establishment of the Center for Manufacturing Support (CMS)
- Change in the name of the Center for Business and Free Enterprise Education and Entrepreneurship to the Center for Economic Education
- Offering of a Health (6-12) and Physical Education (P-12) Dual Certification BSEd Program

### **University of Alabama**

- Establishment of the Integrative Center for Athletic and Sport Technology
- Establishment of the Department of Family, Internal and Rural Medicine
- Establishment of the Department of Journalism and Creative Media
- Change in the name of the Blount Undergraduate Initiative to the Blount Scholars Program in the College of Arts and Sciences



# Instructional Activities

## Information Items . . . (continued)

### University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Establishment of the Center for Inter-professional Education and Simulation
- Establishment of the Division of Congenital Cardiac Anesthesiology in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine
- Change in the name of the Division of Critical Care and Perioperative Medicine to the Division of Critical Care Medicine in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine
- Change in the name of the Comprehensive Stroke Research Center to the Comprehensive Neurovascular and Stroke Center
- Establishment of the James and John Kirkland Institute for Research in Surgical Outcomes
- Change in the name of the Division of Trauma, Burns and Surgical Critical Care to the Division of Acute Care Surgery within the Department of Surgery
- Establishment of the UAB Microbiome Center
- Establishment of the Nathan Shock Center for Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging
- Establishment of the Center for Disability Health and Rehabilitation Science (DHARS)

### University of Alabama in Huntsville

- Establishment of the Collaborative Learning Center (CLC)
- Establishment of the Early Learning Center as an Outreach of the College of Education

### University of North Alabama

- Change in the name of the College of Nursing to the Anderson College of Nursing

### University of South Alabama

- Change in the name of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature
- Change in the name of the Department of Civil Engineering to the Department of Civil, Coastal and Environmental Engineering
- Change in the name of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Studies to the Department of Health, Kinesiology and Sport
- Change in the name of the Marketing Department to the Marketing and Quantitative Methods Department

### University of West Alabama

- Change in the name of the College of Business to the College of Business and Technology

### Trenholm State Community College

- Notification of name change for Trenholm State Community College

# Instructional Activities

## Off-Campus Instruction

The Commission reviewed nine items concerning the delivery of off-campus instruction. One of these was a full program to be delivered at an off-campus site.

### **Northeast Alabama Community College**

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Fort Payne High School,  
Fort Payne, Alabama

### **Shelton State Community College**

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Tuscaloosa Career & Technology Academy,  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

### **Snead State Community College**

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Marshall Technical School,  
Guntersville, Alabama

### **University of Montevallo**

- New Off-Campus Program:  
Master of Business Administration in  
Business Administration at UM Regional  
In-Service Center

### **University of South Alabama**

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Mary G. Montgomery High School,  
Mobile, Alabama
- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Alma Bryant High School,  
Irvington, Alabama

### **Wallace State Community College-Hanceville**

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Oneonta Armory,  
Oneonta, Alabama

### **Wallace State Community College-Selma**

- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Selma High School,  
Selma, Alabama
- New Exempt Off-Campus Site:  
Dallas County Career Technical Center,  
Selma, Alabama

## *Instructional Activities*

### Programs Deleted by Public Institutions

Public institutions submitted requests to delete four degree programs from the Academic Program Inventory. Programs may be deleted because of enrollment or graduation rates that fall below expected levels for the program. Other reasons for deletion are because of a realignment of institutional priorities in response to budget constraints, changes in the discipline or because of accreditation requirements.

#### **Bishop State Community College**

- Welding, C

#### **Marion Military Institute**

- Military Technology, C

#### **University of Alabama in Huntsville**

- Modeling & Simulation, MS
- Modeling & Simulation, PhD

# Institutional Finance & Facilities

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## Consolidated Budget Recommendation

<http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/InstFinance/CBR/CBR2016.pdf>

The Commission receives, evaluates and coordinates budget requests for the public institutions of higher education in Alabama. A single consolidated budget report containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions is presented annually to the Governor and Legislature. The recommendation by the Commission is based on, but not limited to, assessment of institutional requests, funding needs derived from standard techniques of objective measurement and need and unit cost figures calculated through the use of comparative, verified data supplied by the institutions. The Consolidated Budget Recommendation also includes the Commission's recommendation for a variety of statewide programs and activities.

The total amount recommended for the two- and four-year public institutions for FY 2016-17 was \$1,434,454,177. The total amount recommended for all higher education by the Commission for FY 2016-17 was \$1,606,418,131. This recommendation was adopted at the Commission's December 4, 2015 meeting.

<a href="#">Alabama Commission on Higher Education</a> Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Consolidated Budget Recommendation Alabama Public Higher Education Institutions	
INSTITUTION	2016-2017 Recommendation
Alabama A&M University	40,520,455
Alabama State University	45,259,491
Athens State University	12,526,527
Auburn University	240,766,788
Auburn University Montgomery	24,369,568
Jacksonville State University	39,691,821
Troy University	50,847,603
University of Alabama	158,832,803
University of Alabama at Birmingham	282,578,940
University of Alabama in Huntsville	48,106,369
University of Montevallo	20,373,667
University of North Alabama	29,081,565
University of South Alabama	112,325,134
University of West Alabama	15,361,026
Total Senior Institutions	1,120,641,757
Two Year Institutions	313,812,420
Total All Institutions	1,434,454,177

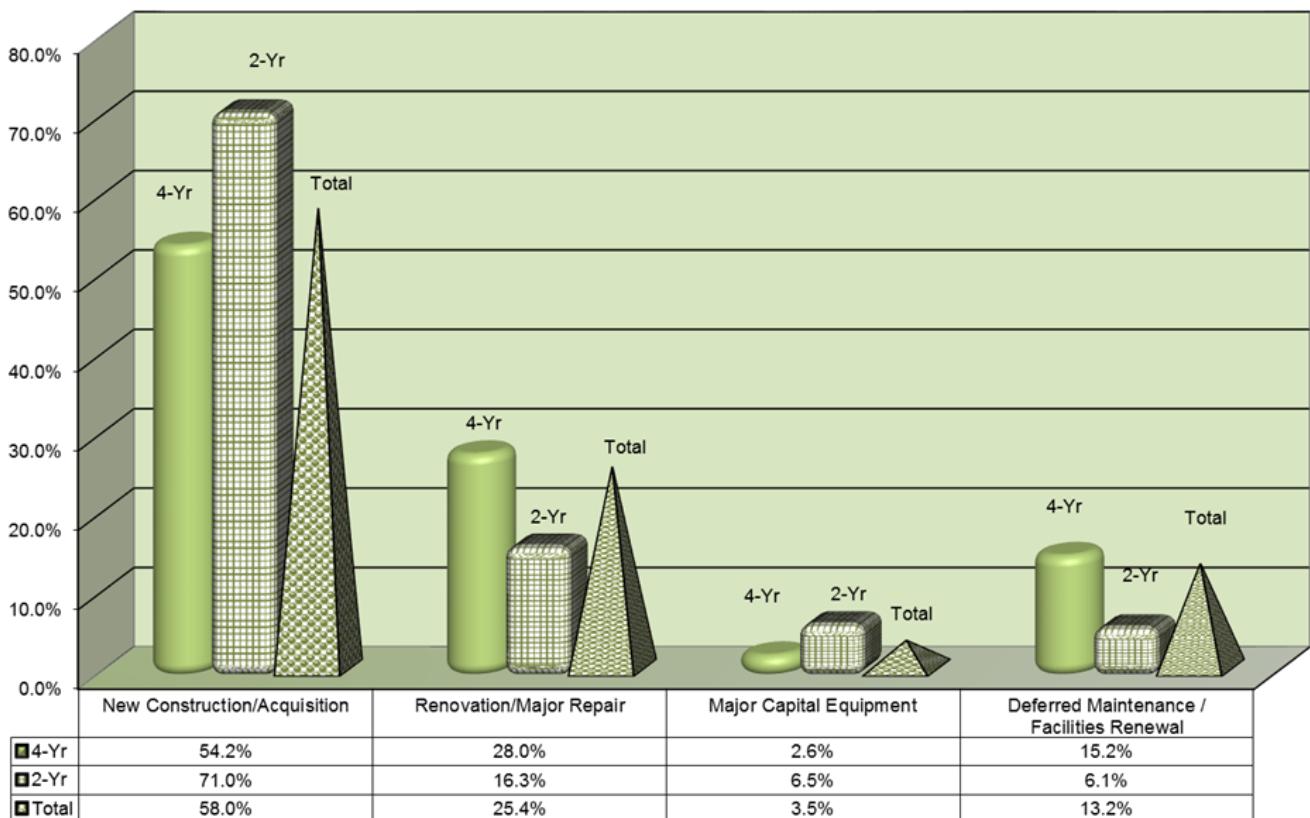
# Institutional Finance & Facilities

## Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests

<http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/InstFinance/FMP/2016-2020/FMP2016-2020.pdf>

Each public two- and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests to the Commission as required by statute. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Requests report for the period covering FY 2017-21 was presented at the December 4, 2015 Commission meeting. A total of \$4,481,314,468 was requested by the two- and four-year public institutions to cover the projected capital projects for this five-year period. Included in the report is a summary table, showing the general obligation bonds that have been issued by the institutions. As of September 30, 2015, the institutions had \$3,394,562,321 in Bonded Indebtedness and paid \$434,921,391 in Debt Service on these bonds.

**Total Capital Requirements by Category FY 2016-2017 - 2020-2021**



## State Authorization for Non-Resident Institutions

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Under provisions of Ala. Code §16-5-10 (14) (1975) no institution of postsecondary education located outside of Alabama may offer units or programs of instruction within Alabama without prior approval of the Commission. The Commission, under its rulemaking authority, establishes criteria for the approval of such institutions and programs. While the Commission has programmatic review oversight of these institutions, it does not have licensing authority. The licensure of private institutions of higher education in Alabama, whether resident or non-resident, rests with the Division of Licensure of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). Alabama is the only state within the United States where private school licensure and programmatic review of degree granting non-resident institutions of higher education is divided between two state agencies, ACCS and the Commission. To facilitate the dual agency assignments of responsibility, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ACCS and the Commission provides for the integration of programmatic review of non-resident institutions with the licensure process. The first MOA was executed in 1985, amended in 2002, 2005 and most recently in 2015.

As of September 30, 2016, an estimated 35,000 Alabama residents were enrolled in one of the 235 private, proprietary institutions operating in the state as foreign corporations in accord with state authorization. Of these institutions, 172 restrict their offerings to online programs while 33 have site-based operations (54 locations in 23 Alabama cities) and 30 offer a combination of online and onsite programs.

Full-scale programmatic reviews were conducted in accordance with Commission Procedures and Regulations for 189 non-resident institutions. There were 39 that received desk audits and seven that were registered as institutions operating under the SREB Electronic Campus Reciprocity Agreement (SECCRA).

The Commission maintains archival records for more than 800 non-resident institutions (NRI) operating under state authorization. An inventory of the active non-resident degree and non-degree granting institutions under the jurisdiction of the Commission is available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/NRI/NRI-Pvt-NonDegree-Inventory.pdf>

Programmatic Profiles of Non-Resident Private Degree Granting Institutions are available at: <http://ache.alabama.gov/Content/Departments/NRI/2015-Program-Profiles.pdf>

# *Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)*

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<http://www.ache.alabama.gov/NAAL>

NAAL is a consortium of public and private four-year schools and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. Since it was established over 30 years ago to eliminate disparities between schools offering graduate education, it has broadened its mission to coordinate academic library resource sharing to enhance education and research for all of higher education.

Database licensing, including both the licensing of resources and price negotiation, is the primary means by which NAAL achieves its mission. Databases, e-journals and e-books are made available to the 27 participating members. By participating in group subscriptions to resources, NAAL members are able to get discounts ranging from five percent to over fifty percent, with the overall average being over sixteen percent. For subscriptions totaling over \$9,300,035.75, the savings was in excess of \$1,503,124.43.

Members also were able to receive discounts when forming new group subscriptions. These were applied despite a lack of subscribers needed for a new group subscription. NAAL spent \$21,686 to subsidize the cost of a suite of databases and online services called FirstSearch for its members.

The primary means by which information about the availability and cost of group subscriptions of e-resources is provided to member institutions is through an extranet commonly referred to as the NAAL Portal. Since the implementation of the portal in early 2015, database procurement has been streamlined saving both members and NAAL time and money. Additional database price discounts ranging from less than \$100 to almost \$56,000 have been procured on behalf of libraries experiencing flat budgets or budget

cuts. This savings has allowed them to maintain subscriptions to databases without a loss of service.

Besides providing database licensing for its members, NAAL provides the same service pro bono for the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) when renewing subscriptions to databases and permanently purchasing e-books for all of Alabama's lifelong learners. Journals, newspaper and books are now available at any time from home, school or work. The AVL was an early adopter of Geo-IP authentication, which allows most citizens access to the e-resources by simply going to the AVL's URL. There are 37 commercial databases and hundreds of e-books free to AVL users. The cost of the resources, \$2,519,780.76, is a small fraction of their worth. According to one of the AVL's primary vendors, if all the academic, public and school libraries in the state purchased the vendor's e-resources individually, the cost would be \$35,422,352.

Unlike other states' virtual libraries, the AVL does not have a paid staff. The AVL Council is a volunteer group responsible for the governance and marketing the AVL. Higher education was well represented in FY 2016 by three ACHE Representatives on the Council: Mr. John-Bauer Graham of Jacksonville State University, Dr. Melvin Davis of the University of North Alabama, and Dr. Janice Franklin of Alabama State University. Negotiations were successful to keep vendor prices at the same rate or lower during 2016. Only one database had to be cut during the year. Public relations efforts were expanded when the AVL reached out to Alabama Public Television and executives of Alabama200, the committee coordinating Alabama's Bicentennial events.

## *Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)*

NAAL is instrumental in facilitating the sharing of library materials between members. The cost is covered by NAAL through UPS ground courier service when books, CDs, or similar hard-copy items are on loan between member libraries. This service provides Alabama's students, faculty members and researchers the ability to borrow materials, rather than having to pay commercial businesses to buy or rent them. The amount the service was used and vendor price increases jeopardized the program's sustainability by mid-year; however, a new contract was negotiated with UPS CampusShip service which resulted in the service coming in under budget for the year. During FY 2016, over 13,836 packages at a cost of \$107,868.25 were sent between member institutions.

NAAL's AlabamaMosaic, a digital repository for showcasing the history and culture of the state, is free to Alabama's archives, museums and other cultural heritage institutions. Participants are required to own the copyright to the digital items and to agree to let students use the images for non-profit purposes. AlabamaMosaic indexes 316 distinct collections from 38 institutions and organizations. Within the last year, 16,000 digital objects were added, bringing the total number to over 190,000. Some of the new partners include

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Carl Elliott Regional Library (Jasper), Huntingdon College, Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society and Limestone County Archives.

In addition to a single repository for digital collections in the state, NAAL provides a low-cost permanent preservation service for digital content called Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet.) Digital content on multiple servers has been geographically distributed across the state to eliminate a disruption in service if one or two sites go down. ADPNet began with a membership of academic libraries and now includes two public library systems in Alabama. This inclusion has garnered world-wide attention for its uniqueness among digital preservation networks.

ADPNet began the year focusing on increasing membership and stabilizing finances. A new membership model was put in place which reduced the number of membership levels from four to two and implemented storage use fees. One library is in the process of joining and two more have expressed interest. Although storage fees are now being assessed, NAAL reduced its per GB (gigabyte) pricing and is providing hardware assistance reporting. ADPNet and NAAL have positive outlooks for FY 2017.



## Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)



Jessica Hayes and Samantha McNeilly during the AUM POP into the Library event.



Troy University Trojan mascot in Banned Books Week activities that were funded by the Judith Krug Grant.

## Alabama Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ALEPSCoR)

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The ALEPSCoR Program is dedicated to the advancement of economic development via scientific and engineering research through a collaborative effort among the state's research universities. The focus of activities is designed to attract and retain distinguished scientists and researchers for Alabama to develop new cutting-edge technologies, companies and opportunities and to stimulate state competitiveness in medicine, biotechnology, engineering, mathematics and other applied sciences. In FY 2015-16, Alabama's investment in the ALEPSCoR Program has led to over \$8.9 million in new federal awards being brought into the state and over \$16.6 million in research expenditures.

### Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP)

In 2006, the Alabama Legislature increased the Commission's EPSCoR line item appropriation for the purpose of funding a Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP). The goals of the GRSP are to attract high-quality graduate students to Alabama's research universities, to provide vital support for students performing research in those areas targeted by the state as high priority development areas and to increase the pool of highly trained Master's and PhD graduates available to Alabama industry. The program has implemented 11 successful rounds of competitive grant awards. Nearly 250 students have been supported with a state investment of over eight million dollars to date with 23 new awardees beginning in August 2016.

State support has assisted students in their achievement of 145 PhD and 48 Master's degrees as of December 2016. This next generation of GRSP scholars whose research topics range from biomedical and life sciences to nano-materials and engineering are destined to become Alabama's industrial and academic leaders of tomorrow.

Eight GRSP brochures that chronicle accomplishments of this project to date and provide a historical reference to the ongoing work have been published and distributed to state and national audiences. The ninth will be available in December 2016. Copies of these annual GRSP reports are available at: <http://alepscor.org/reports/>.



## *U.S. Department of Education (USDE) No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Competitive Grant Program*

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The Alabama Commission on Higher Education administers the United States Department of Education competitive grant partnership program for higher education institutions (Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended and enacted in 2001 as part of the No Child Left Behind Act). The Title II program is the largest federal program that supports professional development activities to improve teaching and learning. Under this program, funds are made available to State Educational Agencies (SEAs), Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), State Agencies for Higher Education (SAHEs) and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to support and help shape state and local professional development activities.

Requests for Proposals were circulated to all Alabama institutions of higher education, both public and private. A peer panel of experienced Alabama university deans, public school teachers and staff of the Alabama State Department of Education evaluated and ranked all proposals. Final awards were based on the peer panel's recommendations, the ACHE staff analysis and review by commissioners appointed by the ACHE chairman.

Competitive grants were awarded in this program to 12 institutions of higher education resulting in professional development projects for an estimated 944 teachers, 165 administrators and 14 para-professionals in 72 public school districts and 21 private schools. Nearly 700 of these teachers are estimated to serve public school districts identified as high need. More than 70,000 students were directly impacted by all of the participating teachers.

As required by NCLB legislation to serve high need school districts and to assure that this program reaches all regions of the state, ACHE identified 80 districts meeting federal criteria as high-need and required all projects approved for funding to serve one or more of these school districts. All 12 funded projects met that requirement in 53 of those districts and also were able to serve other districts not identified as high need.

In addition to federal funding, external funding was provided by the host institutions, school district partners, foundations, businesses and others including the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, International Paper, Montgomery Museum of Fine Art, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alabama State Council on the Arts, Southeast Center for Education in the Arts, J.K. Lowder Family Foundation, Caring Foundation and McWane Science Center among others. Projects reported that the total funding and in-kind services leveraged from all external sources was estimated at more than \$650,000 not including volunteer and other unspecified resources.

Additional information and directories of funded projects from 2004 to the present are available at: <http://www.ache.alabama.gov/NCLB/>.

## *Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System (AGSC/STARS)*

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[http://stars.troy.edu/reports/2014-2015 Annual Report.pdf](http://stars.troy.edu/reports/2014-2015%20Annual%20Report.pdf)

The AGSC was created by the Alabama Legislature in March 1994 (Act 94-202). The primary mission was to establish a statewide freshman- and sophomore-level general studies curriculum to be taken at all public colleges and universities and to develop and adopt a statewide articulation agreement for the freshman and sophomore years for the transfer of credit among all public institutions of higher education in Alabama. The STARS System allows public two-year students in Alabama to obtain a Transfer Guide/Agreement for the major of their choice.

This guide/agreement, if used correctly, guides the student through their first two years of coursework and prevents loss of credit hours upon transfer to the appropriate public four-year university in Alabama.

In 2015-16 over 82,500 official transfer guides were obtained by students and administrators through the STARS website. Since 1998, over 1.2 million transfer guides have been obtained by students and administrators through the STARS website. This program continues to save time, money and credit for the college students of our state.





# Alabama Humanities Foundation— School & University Partners for Educational Renewal (SUPER)

<http://www.alabamahumanities.org/programs/super-teachers/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$40,276

The goal of SUPER is to increase participants' subject knowledge and, in turn, their confidence, enthusiasm and effectiveness as educators. The content in these programs directly addresses the courses of study as mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education. Upon completion of a SUPER program, participants receive a certificate documenting hours earned toward professional development for submission within their own districts. SUPER programs are registered with ALSDE-STIPD.

Through SUPER, the AHF seeks to foster long-lasting relationships between Alabama's institutions of higher education, public and private elementary and secondary schools and the state's many important historical and cultural organizations.

The 2016 SUPER Teacher Program enriched the education of over 4,600 Alabama students in the 2015-16 school year by providing a combined 1,474 hours of intensive, graduate-level, content-based professional development to 37 elementary, middle and high school teachers. Among the seminars offered were:

- **Espanol o Castellano?: History of the Spanish Language (Language Immersion program)**

June 6-10, 2016, Montevallo,  
University of Montevallo

Lead scholar: Leonor Vazquez-Gonzalez,  
PhD, associate professor of Spanish,  
University of Montevallo

This institute included the linguistic development of the Spanish language from its Latin roots to modern Spanish.

Participants studied the sociocultural, historical and literary factors that have affected the linguistic evolution of the Spanish language.

Participating teachers: 15  
Students reached: 1,892

- **World War II in Alabama and Beyond**

June 13-16, 2016, Mobile,  
University of Mobile

Lead scholar: Matthew Downs, PhD,  
assistant professor of History,  
University of Mobile

In addition to in-class lectures, participants toured the USS Alabama and the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Participating teachers: 13  
Students reached: 1,737

- **Maycomb Moments, 1930s and 1950s: Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird and Go Set a Watchman**

July 17-22, 2016, Monroeville, Alabama  
Alabama Southern Community College

Lead Scholar: Nancy Grisham Anderson,  
Distinguished Outreach Fellow,  
Auburn University at Montgomery

Participants discussed history, family reminiscences, biographies (myths and realities), the novels and the short publications, the movie of TKAM and music inspired by TKAM.

Participating teachers: 9  
Students reached: 993

## Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA)

<http://www.aalga.us/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$5,241,283

AALGA was formed in June of 2000 through a Memorandum of Understanding among Alabama's three land grant universities: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University and Tuskegee University.

The majority of the funds received by AALGA, through ACHE, during FY 2015-16 were used to match federal funds made available to Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University for approved USDA/NIFA Evans-Allen and McIntire-Stennis (Forestry) research programs. Deans of all three schools meet regularly and develop priorities for programs that utilize these funds to make them operational.

AALGA's unique programming across all three land grant universities is geared towards generating additional research interest. Through deliberate and structured collaboration, they allow participating researchers to address emerging research challenges affecting the state. Faculty are encouraged to use these limited funds to attract much larger funding on a national and international scale. These projects frequently provide immediate benefit to farmers and citizens of the state, while at the same time reducing duplication in agricultural research and taking advantage of the scientific expertise of the scientists at all three universities.



## *Ability Sports Network (ASN)*

<http://asn.huntingdon.edu/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$210,000

The ASN at Huntingdon College has a two-fold mission. One is to meet the 2013 Office of Civil Rights mandate which provides sport opportunities to students in the schools who would otherwise not be able to participate in after school athletics because of a physical disability. The other is to facilitate the further training of educators and coaches in Alabama to become a certified disability sport specialist.

During FY 2015-16 there was an ongoing refinement of deliverables at the Huntingdon College-ASN (HC-ASN) site and the first year outcomes in the second location which is the ASN at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH-ASN).

Participation at HC-ASN skill development sessions increased from 41 to 72 in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair racing and bocchia. The number of competitions increased from four to 14, including competitions at the Youth Regional Basketball Tournament in Greensboro, North Carolina and the Southern Conference Tournament in Birmingham. HC-ASN hosted a double header competition with a new Nashville Wheelchair Basketball Team. Many special events were held including six inclusive sport day events for children with and without disabilities. A team of cyclists, both disabled and non-disabled, were registered in the Montgomery Cycling for Sight marathon and a joint HC/UAH summer training camp was held.

HC-ASN partnered with the Alabama Association of Health, Physical Education and Dance to host a certified disability sport specialist training program during their annual conference. There

were 36 physical educators from across Alabama participating. An online course and a full day of skill development allowed these professionals to earn professional learning units from the Alabama State Department of Education.

These HC-ASN activities provided primary services to 25 youth with disabilities from various schools including: Park Crossing High School, Lee High School, Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, Hooper Academy, Southlawn Middle School, Goodwyn Junior High School, Forest Avenue Academic Magnet School, Garrett Elementary School, Halcyon Elementary School, Redland Elementary School, Valiant Cross and Carver High School. The primary activities for youth with disabilities averaged 10-13 participants each session and their inclusive sport days averaged 32 participants (both disabled and non-disabled youth). The Ability Sport Summer camp with UAH had 20 participants.

The on-going research related to this program continues to be accepted nationwide as both knowledge producing and applicable to the further development of youth disability sport. Recently, ASN was notified that their latest proposal, "Predicting Energy Expenditure and Intensity of Youth Wheelchair Basketball: A Pilot Study Using Accelerometry," was selected for a presentation during the 2016 North American Federation of Adapted Physical Activity Symposium (September 21-23, 2016) in Edmonton, Alberta. This research was completed by students and faculty from Huntingdon College and Auburn University at Montgomery.

## *Ability Sports Network (ASN)*

HC-ASN has continued to expand through the River Region. The 2015-16 funding expansion of ASN programs and services were focused on North Alabama through an agreement with UAH.

UAH-ASN conducted 37 skill development sessions, including sessions dedicated to wheelchair basketball, boccia, seated volleyball, strength training and visually impaired baseball. UAH-ASN has registered a junior varsity wheelchair basketball team with the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA), which

will be competing in the southeast conference beginning in November 2016. The UAH-ASN director began teaching KIN 371: Adapted Fitness to 35 enrolled UAH students who were taught various adapted and inclusive physical activities. These UAH-ASN activities provided primary services to 12 youth with disabilities from various schools across the Limestone, Madison and Morgan County areas with participation in individual skill development sessions ranging from one to 50 and totaled 242 participants.





## Alabama Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (ALWCAP)

<http://alwg.us/pages/home.php>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$75,000

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a benevolent, non-profit 501c3 corporation designated by the United States Congress under Titles 10 and 36 of the United States Code as the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force (USAF). Its three-fold charter includes Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs and Emergency Services. Although fuel and lubricants expended for actual search missions are reimbursable by the USAF, all other expenses are borne by the member or supported by donations. The following activities are some of those funded during FY 2015-16:

- Annual 'Ironman' competition held in Huntsville. Provided meals and training materials for the cadet attendees. (Cadets are youth members ages 12-20)
- Wreaths Across America. Cadets participated in ceremonies held at various cemeteries across Alabama to honor fallen members of the armed forces
- Annual Wing Conference in Tuscaloosa. The cadets attended courses in leadership and professional development, as well as courses in science, technology, engineering and math
- Wing Emergency Services School (WESS). This is a six-month training course teaching the basic skills of emergency services to 12-20 year olds
- Color Guard Academy. Training materials were provided for participants related to the traditions of respecting the United States flag. Color guards are on call for military and public events. They also competed at wing, region and national competitions
- Cyber Patriot, the National Youth Cyber Education Program. This program was created to inspire students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The program, created by the Air Force Association (AFA), features the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition for high school and middle school students. The Alabama Wing sponsors teams.
- Two \$1,500 academic scholarships (STEM) awarded
- One Cadet Flight Scholarship was awarded
- Provided awards for all competitive events
- Provided some support for administrative costs of primary command and key directors



## *Alabama Resource Conservation & Development Council (ARCDC)*

<http://www.aarcd.net/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$1,887,744

The purpose of the funds appropriated to the ARCDC is to assist in the coordination of the activities of Alabama's nine regional Resource Conservation and Development Councils and to speak for and promote the activities of the regional councils in Alabama and on the national level. A list of all 235 projects funded in FY 2015-16, for all nine regional councils, can be found in the ARCDC 2016 Annual Report, which can be viewed on their website at: <http://http://alabamarcd.org/annual-reports/>



## *Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee (ASWCC)*

<http://www.swcc.state.al.us/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$1,173,376

The purpose of the state allocation to the ASWCC is to support conservation activities within each of the 67 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The funds appropriated to the ASWCC helped provide the technical assistance and educational opportunities necessary to implement each districts' programs. Activities of the districts included groundwater festivals, land judging activities, poster and essay contests, teacher workshops, conservation tours, as well as stream cleanups and riparian restoration. In FY 2016, ASWCC received \$1,173,376 from the Education Trust Fund to support these activities. Each district received \$13,500 for program delivery.



## Alabama Black Belt Adventures (ALBBA)

<http://www.alabamablackbeltadventures.org>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$300,000

Created in 2009, Alabama Black Belt Adventures (ALBBA) is a non-profit organization whose stated mission is, “to provide economic and ecological benefits to the region’s communities and its citizens through the collective promotion of all outdoor recreational assets and tourism opportunities”. ALBBA is a consortium of over 50 hunting and fishing lodges located in the state’s Black Belt region. In addition to promoting the Black Belt’s widely acclaimed hunting and fishing opportunities, ALBBA also promotes other

outdoor recreation opportunities including canoeing, horseback riding, hiking and bird watching. ALBBA works closely with numerous tourism partners representing the region’s rich cultural and heritage assets ranging from antebellum homes to sites of some of the nation’s most important civil rights events. ALBBA uses a multi-media approach of print, electronic and educational booths at hunting and fishing expos in its promotional activities.





## *Black Belt Initiative — Alabama Forestry Foundation*

<http://www.alaforestry.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=55>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$242,000

The Alabama Forestry Foundation's Black Belt Initiative has made great strides in promoting the awareness of job opportunities in forestry and in connecting with the community through educational programs.

J.U. Blacksher's Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Math (STREAM) Club encourages third through sixth grade students to work cooperatively on provided projects and programs. They are strengthening math and science skills to build a community of problem solvers. This gives a direct appreciation to one of Alabama's most important natural resources – water, which is cleaned and purified by Alabama's forests. Middle and high school students serve as STREAM mentors and assist in program activities. Funding for these after school clubs is made possible by grants.

Subject coaches instruct math and science professional learning teams to teach new concepts, meet learning targets and provide depth of knowledge training for school faculty.

The assistance these coaches provide in preparation of the annual standardized testing

(currently ACT ASPIRE) proves key to improving test scores. ASPIRE test results in math for third grade students at these rural schools exceed the national average. These coaches are making a positive difference.

Math and Science Coaches:

- Build math and science professional learning teams
- Update teachers on cross cutting concepts, big ideas and learning targets
- Unpack new science standards
- Provide additional depth of knowledge training to ensure students are prepared for testing
- Assist students and teachers with ASPIRE preparation and data studies
- Provide small group and one-on-one student instruction
- Plan, model, co-teach lessons to assist teachers

Community connections are vital to student and school successes. Engaging community stakeholders further promotes the mission of the Black Belt Initiative and provides opportunities for Alabama students in rural areas.



## *Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC)*

<http://www.blackbelttreasures.com/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$150,000

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC) is a non-profit 501c3 organization in Camden that provides arts education opportunities for area residents and visitors with a mission of encouraging economic stimulation in the region.

An outgrowth of a tourism initiative started by the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission, the BBTCAC offers regional artisans a venue for marketing and selling their products that are unique to Alabama's Black Belt.

Any artist who resides in the Black Belt region is eligible to submit their work to be reviewed by a jury for inclusion in the gallery. BBTCAC artists have varied levels of training and talent, from those with formal backgrounds and training in the arts, to folk artists with little or no training. BBTCAC offers its artists opportunities to participate in educational programming to enhance their business skills. Additionally, regional artists serve as instructors for a variety of classroom learning experiences offered to youth and adults, such as: painting, printmaking, basket weaving, chair caning, pottery and textile arts.

The BBTCAC gallery facility is a rehabilitated automobile dealership in the heart of historic downtown Camden. In addition to tapping into the art industry of Alabama as an economic engine, the organization offers an excellent example for revitalizing small town America.

Since 2013, BBTCAC has been engaged in WealthWorks, a planning process to ensure long-term vitality. This process brings together stakeholders and value propositions to create a

mutually beneficial arts-driven economy and vibrant quality of life. We continue to engage in meetings with stakeholders identified in our value chain map, to initiate benchmarking through surveys of artists, educators and consumers and to strengthen our process of measuring outcomes.

Our portfolio of strategies to transform our regional arts community includes artist incubator/studios and on-going business development programming opportunities for artists in the region (ARTrepreneur program). A physical campus includes a gallery store, a Black Belt ART House with a multi-use education center, artist studios, art support industry space, exhibit/festival space and an artist residence program. Partnerships between BBTCAC with individuals and organizations have been established to provide arts education opportunities across the region and beyond. Cultural exchange activities celebrate the arts, heritage and multi-culturalism of Alabama's contemporary Black Belt region.

With education central to BBTCAC's mission and planning, 2015-2016 has seen a broad range of educational initiatives for a diverse group of constituents. Whether through in-school programs or after-school art classes, hands-on experiences during festivals or enrichment classes for the adult learner, enhancement workshops or business skill training for working artists, secondary learning during lectures, book club, theatrical and musical performances, or a visitor to the BBTCAC Gallery - education is fundamental to every aspect of BBTCAC's daily work.

## *Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC)*

In addition to the valuable investment of funds through the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, BBTCAC relies heavily on small grants and contributions through the BBTCAC Guild to subsidize arts education efforts and the staffing required to provide these professional arts education events and programs each year. Among those are summer art camps, after school art classes, in-school art enrichment programs, youth and adult art classes and workshops such as painting, pottery, printmaking, basket weaving, chair caning, jewelry making, fused glass and artist demonstrations of heritage arts.

Third graders at U.S. Jones Elementary School in Demopolis have participated in a year-long art enrichment program. It was a partnership with Katie Poole, recipient of the Jenice Riley Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Black Belt Community Foundation. The program focused on printmaking, clay, basket weaving, bookmaking, quilting, folk art and storytelling, all vital components of the Black Belt's culture and history. It also served as a model to help build a body of lesson plans for other Black Belt schools as a part of the upcoming *Black Belt Art in the Classroom* Program. Additionally, BBTCAC artists provided hands-on art and cultural experiences at Gaineswood's Annual Heritage Days and Rikards Mill's Annual Pioneer Days. This event hosted fourth grade students from four counties and regional home school groups, where the students learned about basket making, Native American and Alabama folk pottery and weaving.

An additional component of the in-school, after school and summer youth art programs was the inclusion of regional college art students assisting in planning and presenting art lessons. This benefitted not only the BBTCAC participants, but also the college students as they experienced hands-on teaching, real-life classroom situations and acquired classroom management skills.

BBTCAC continues its work toward the formalization of a Black Belt Artisans Guild and an entrepreneurial training program (ARTrepreneur) to provide business and artistic training for artists in the Black Belt region. Stakeholder meetings are being held with artists and educational partners which include University of West Alabama, University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, University of Alabama Entrepreneurial Research Network (ERN), Alabama Southern Community College and Judson College. They are designing the curriculum and delivery system for the program. One of the most highly attended meetings/workshop was the Social Media Workshop presented by a representative of University of Alabama ERN. As a component of ARTrepreneur, BBTCAC, in partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, hosted the first BBTCAC Teaching Artists training workshop. During the workshop, 24 Black Belt artists were prepared to present quality in-school programs which will incorporate regional history and culture through the arts. Ongoing workshops and training sessions will ensure the Black Belt Teaching Artists are prepared to provide exceptional art instruction and skills, as well as tools necessary to equip classroom teachers to integrate the arts into their current curriculum.

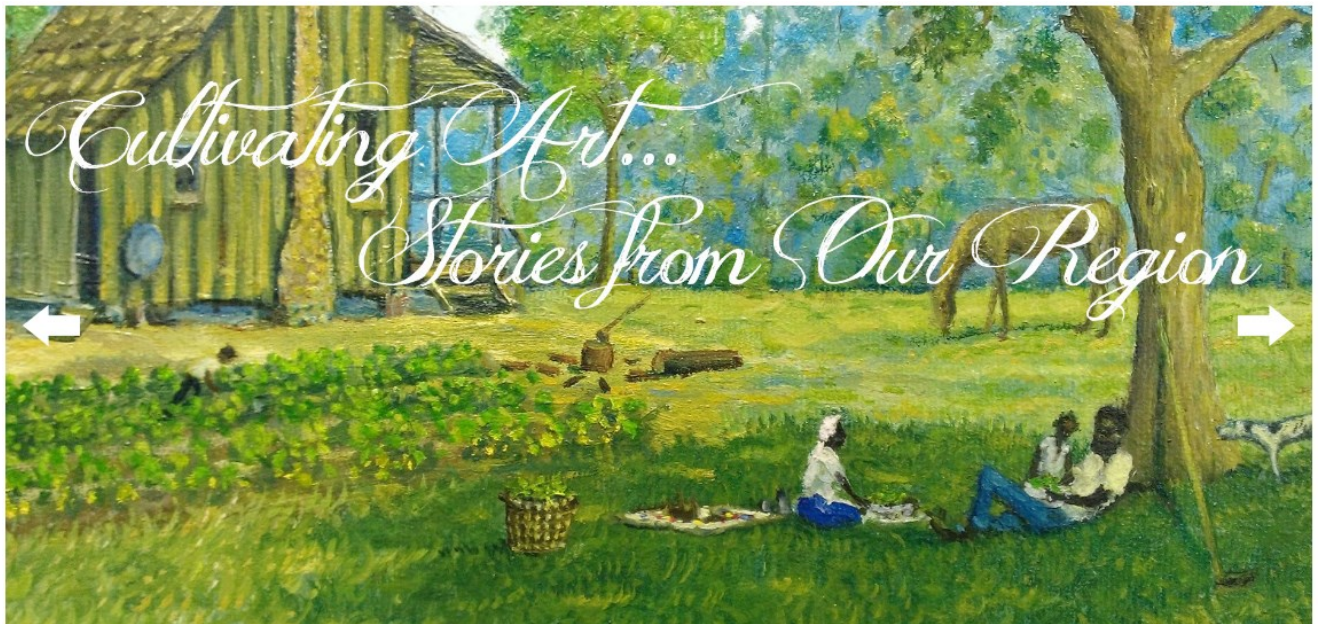
## *Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC)*

A BBTCAC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was held with an evening of regional music and food. The program featured a book signing of *Visions of the Black Belt* by author Valerie Pope Burnes and photographer Robin McDonald. Over 20 of the artists, musicians and entrepreneurs feature the architecture, land, traditions, artists, authors, musicians and culture of this rich place known as Alabama's Black Belt.

Ongoing efforts continue to educate people outside the Black Belt region on the rich culture and artistic talent of its people. The Black Belt

Quilt Trail offers educational aspects which are as rich and varied as each site and serves as an alternative means of teaching regional history through the arts. The Quilt Trail in each county provides opportunities for individuals, organizations, schools and businesses to tell the story of their history and culture through artistically designed quilt murals and associated programming.

<http://www.blackbeltreasures.com/black-belt-quilt-trail.aspx>





## *Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC)*

Additionally, BBTCAC was afforded the opportunity to provide educational learning experiences at the Governor's inaugural event, Southern Makers in Montgomery and in the Black Belt Village at the Rick and Bubba Outdoor Expo in Birmingham. A Black Belt Artists Exhibit was featured at the Georgine Clark Alabama Artist Gallery at the Alabama State Council on the Arts. BBTCAC partnered with the Alabama Folklife Association for the Common Threads quilting program, tour and workshop. BBTCAC partnered with Old Alabama Town to feature historic regional photographs by Edith Morgan (collection compiled by BBTCAC author).

In Spring 2015, two staff members attended New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW), an opportunity offered by Delta Regional Authority.

The event was focused on entrepreneurial development as a means of creating and growing small businesses. As BBTCAC continues its work toward the formalization of a Black Belt Artisans Guild and an entrepreneurial training program (ARTrepreneur) to provide business and artistic training for artists in the Black Belt region, the knowledge and network garnered at NOEW will be beneficial.

An underlying goal of BBTCAC since its inception was the need to help dispel the negative image of the Black Belt region. While BBTCAC works toward that goal every day, a special opportunity was presented to partner with University of Alabama Press in the publication of a book about the contemporary Alabama Black Belt region.



# National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI)

<https://www.ncfi.usss.gov/ncfi/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$250,000

The NCFI was established in 2007 through a partnership initiative between the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Secret Service, the Alabama Office of Prosecution Services (APOS), the state of Alabama and the city of Hoover.

The primary purpose is to provide state and local law enforcement officers the training necessary to conduct basic electronic crime investigations, respond to network intrusion incidents, conduct computer forensic examinations and training for prosecutors and judges in using digital evidence in court. All NCFI training courses are made available through funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

Since 2008, the NCFI has trained 5,400 state and local prosecutors, judges and law enforcement from all 50 states and three territories, making an economic impact on Alabama of \$16,000,000. Included in that number is 411 Alabama law enforcement

officers, judges and prosecutors, providing the state with \$2,596,500 in equipment and software. Without the NCFI, similar training would have cost Alabama \$5,669,200. The NCFI is staffed by 10 full-time employees to handle the day-to-day operations. Seven of those are employees of the United States Secret Service and three are State of Alabama employees funded through the Office of Prosecution Services.

In addition to the law enforcement training, the NCFI and AOPS provide cyber security protection and awareness training to school groups (college and high school), as well as financial, legal, government and community groups.

The expenditures through the Alabama Commission on Higher Education cover the three full-time state employees assigned to the NCFI, and logistic and operational cost of training that is not covered by the federal budget. It also allows for all of the non-law enforcement training.



## *International Motorsports Hall of Fame*

<http://www.motorsportshalloffame.com/>

FY 2015-16 Appropriation: \$150,000

The International Motorsports Hall of Fame is a non-profit 501c3 organization based in Talladega that was created to promote Alabama's automobile racing industry. In 2015, over 20,000 people from around the world visited this major Alabama tourist attraction.

The Hall of Fame has garnered the support of racing enthusiasts from amateurs to professionals. Over 400 model cars have been donated to the museum. Many are autographed by the driver of the car that is represented by the model.

Associated with the museum are the McCaig-Wellborn Research Library and Fox Sports 1 Dome. Visitors may use the library to find specific information on drivers and the track. The Fox Sports 1 Dome has hosted numerous events for major organizations.

The money allocated to the Foundation has supported repairs and maintenance to the facilities in Talladega.

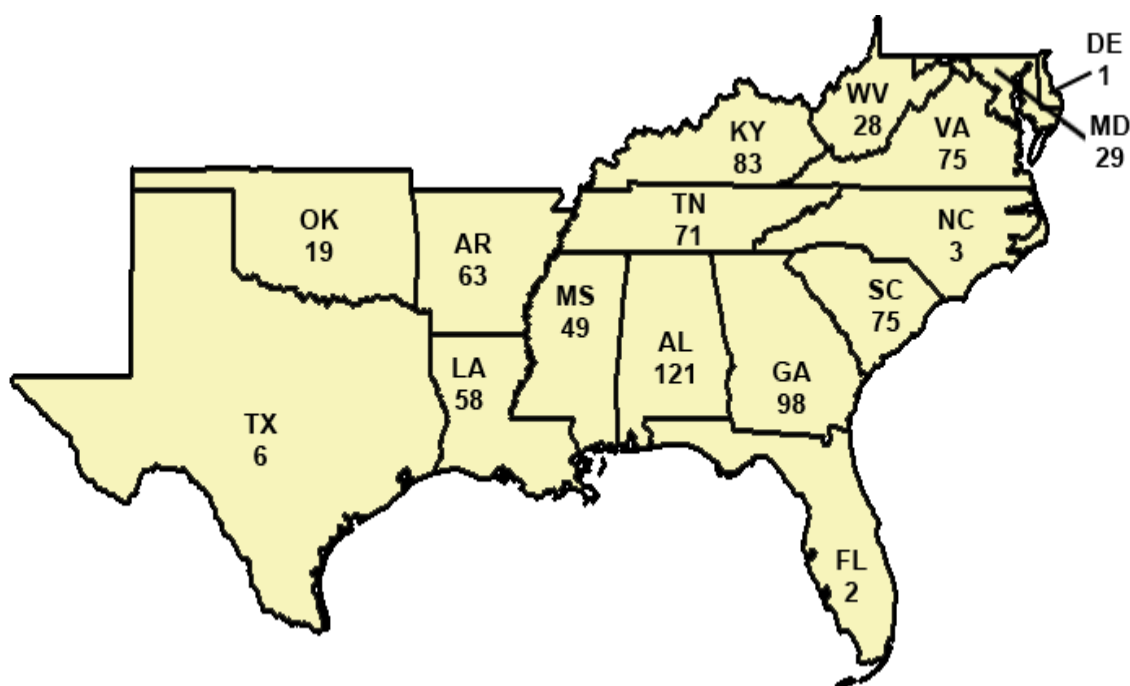


## Special Programs Report

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### SREB DOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

During the 2015-16 academic year, Alabama continued to lead the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states in the number of doctoral scholars. Alabama had 121 graduates, thanks to Auburn University, the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The states and their graduates are shown below:



The success of the Doctoral Scholars Program is based on the multiple layers that SREB has agreed to provide:

1. financial assistance,
2. academic/research funding,
3. career counseling and job postings,
4. scholar counseling and advocacy,
5. a scholar directory for networking and recruiting,
6. invitation to the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, which all of the SREB scholars have attended at some point in their doctoral career,
7. continued early career support.

# Special Programs Report

## Special Acknowledgements

The Commission and the staff acknowledged the retirement of Dr. David A. Francko, associate provost and dean of the graduate school at the University of Alabama. During Dean Francko's 10-year tenure, the University of Alabama (UA) now has the highest number of graduates (68) among the universities in the 11 southeastern states that participate in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program.

Also notable, is the fact that with Dean Francko's effort, UA won a Council of Graduate Schools/Peterson Award for innovation in creating an inclusive graduate community. One example is the establishment of the Alabama Southern Regional Education Board (AL SREB) Organization. This student organization is designed to enrich the educational experience of current SREB doctoral students at UA through mentoring and support from current AL SREB doctoral students, AL SREB alumni, UA faculty and staff, SREB and ACHE. In addition, the scholars participate in UA's Tide Together Mentoring Program.



*Dr. David A. Francko*

## Alabama Student Profiles

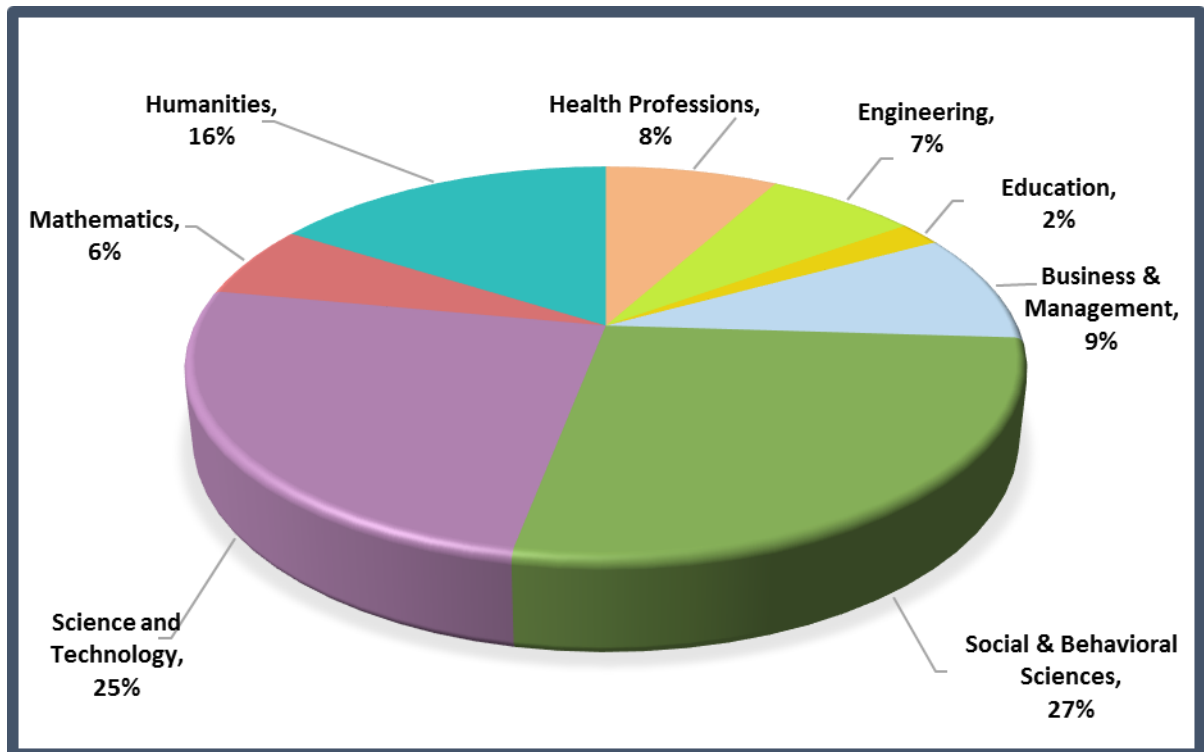
*Source: SREB*

1. total graduates - 121, doctoral scholars - 84 and dissertation scholars - 37
2. percentage of baccalaureate degrees from a historically black college or university - 32%
3. percentage of students who enter the program at a master's degree level or above - 79%
4. funded time-to-degree from program entrance averaged 1.9 years for dissertation scholars
5. funded time-to-degree from program entrance averaged:
  - years with master's degree - 5.1
  - years without masters degree - 5.7
6. total time-to-degree average:
  - for dissertation scholars averaged - 7.2 years
  - for doctoral scholars averaged - 7.6 years
7. average age at graduation - 34.1
8. employed in higher education - 95%

## Special Programs Report

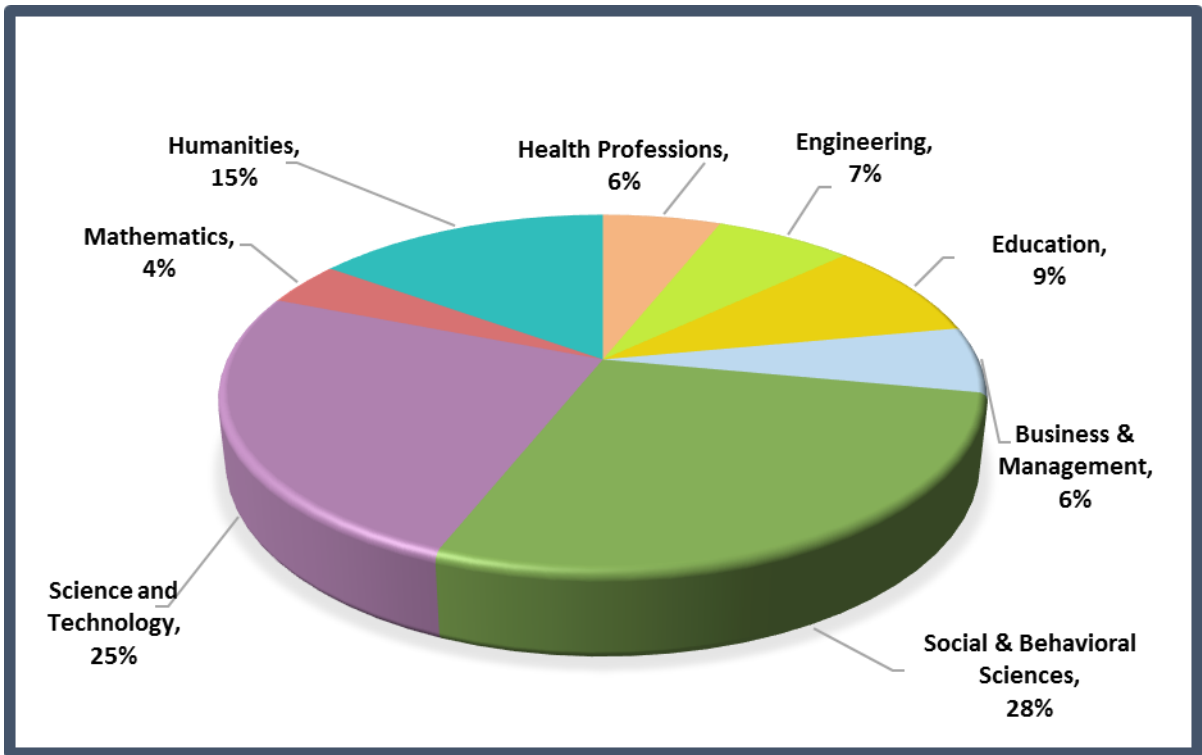
### Alabama Academic Fields of Study

For 2015-16, the Fields of Study chart below indicates that social and behavioral sciences continue to be the most popular (27%) fields for Alabama's doctoral scholars, followed by science and technology (25%) and humanities (16%).



# Special Programs Report

## Overall SREB Academic Fields of Study





## Special Programs Report

### Two AUM Professors Cited by SREB

Two Auburn University at Montgomery faculty members were among 16 graduates featured in the SREB publication, *Exploring New Research Frontiers for Future Generations*.

The Alabama graduates and their topics were: Dr. Denise Davis-Maye, *Social Uplift and Community Development Models*; and Dr. Annice Yarber-Allen, *Female and Family Socio-Cultural Issues*.

SREB noted that, “This publication recognizes the cutting edge research that the 16 former Institute scholars and doctoral program graduates from the partner organizations are conducting in their current faculty and research positions. These scholars have established academic careers and are contributing significant research in their respective disciplines. Their presence helps diversify their academic communities by bringing fresh perspectives to their disciplinary, local and global communities”.

Dr. Davis-Maye is Associate Professor of Pre-Social Work. She earned a PhD in Social Work from the University of Alabama.

Dr. Annice Yarber Allen is Department Chair, Associate Professor & Distinguished Teaching Professor, Sociology, Anthropology and Geography. She earned a PhD in Medical Sociology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



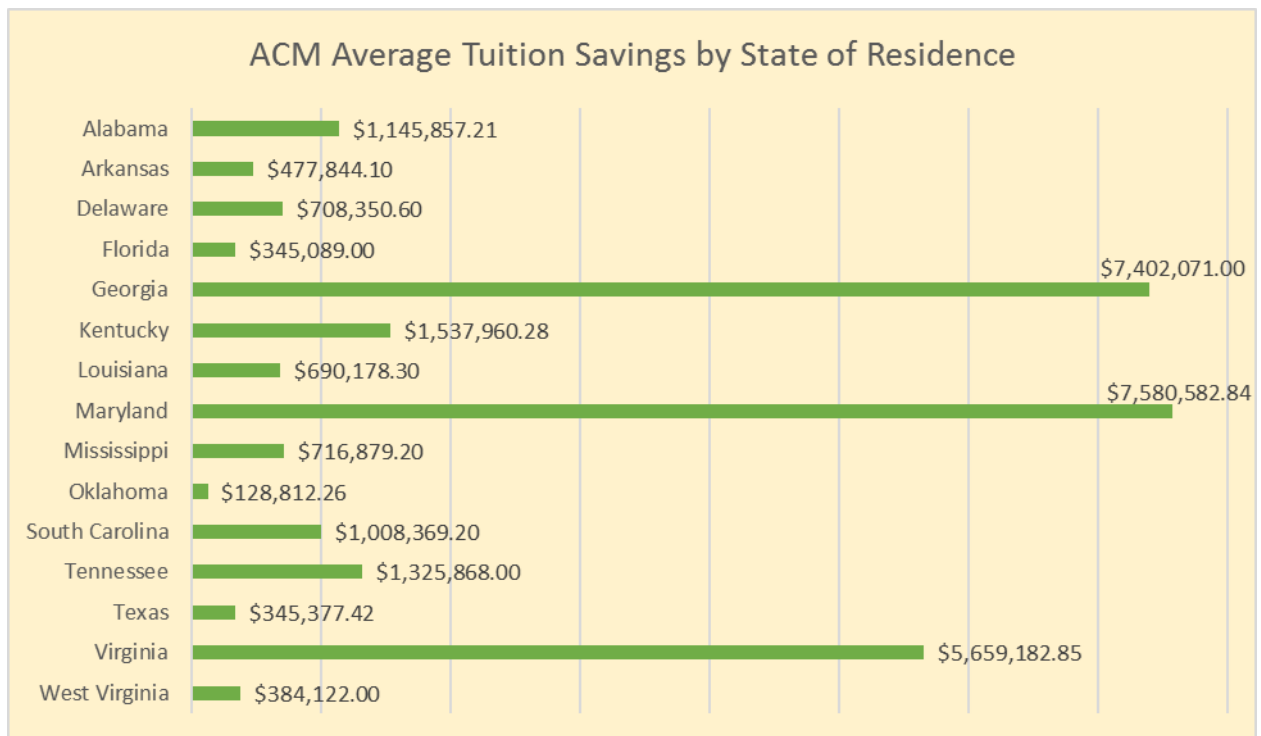
Dr. Denise Davis-Maye and Dr. Annice Yarber Allen also directed a Fulbright-Hays four-week curriculum development seminar featuring the cultural history and welfare of women in Belize.

# Special Programs Report

## The Academic Common Market

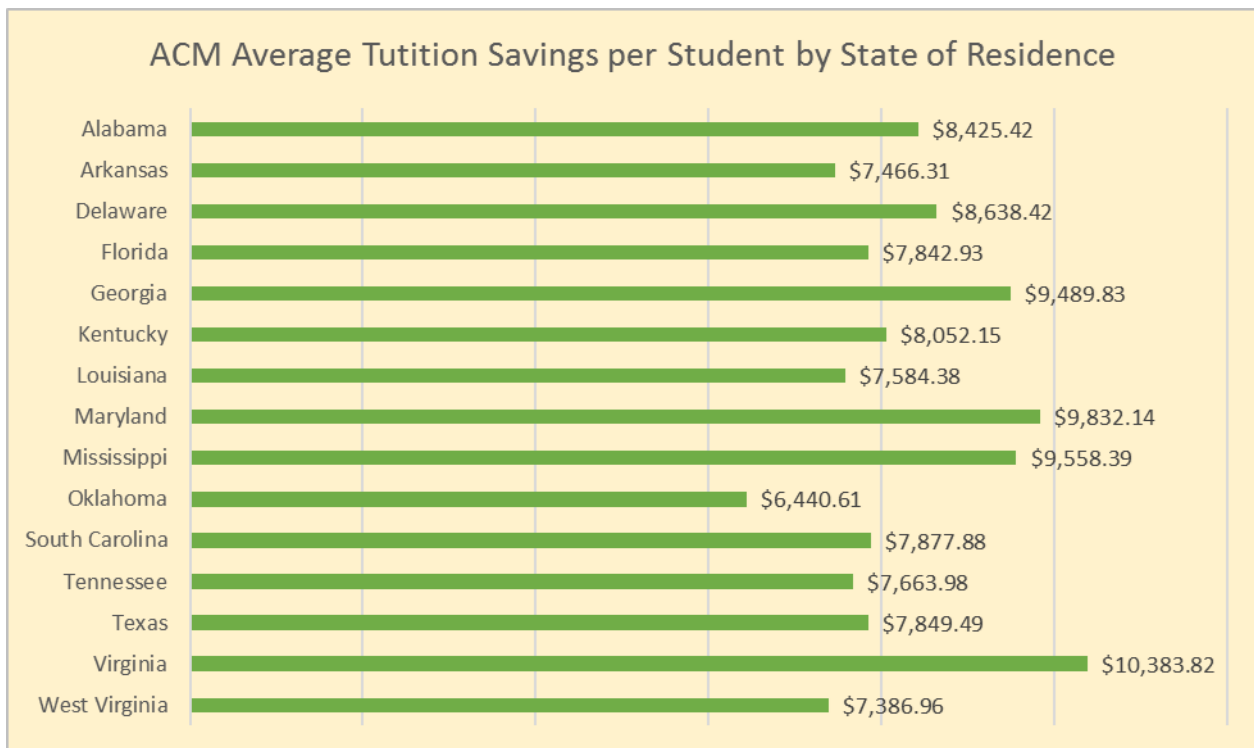
The 2015-16 academic year was the 36<sup>th</sup> year that the Academic Common Market (ACM) provided a tuition-savings program for college students who pursue degrees in fields that are not offered by the students' public in-state institutions.

The ACHE staff received applications and inquiries from more than 500 Alabama residents who were interested in out-of-state programs at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels. As a result of staff work, the tuition savings for Alabama residents was \$1,145,857.21.



## Special Programs Report

Tuition savings by state were calculated by determining the difference between in- and out-of-state tuition for each program, then adding the difference for each student certified.



## Special Programs Report

### Popular Programs

Among the popular programs chosen by Alabama residents were: Professional Golf Management, Geological Engineering, Political Communication and Meteorology. The table below provides additional information on these programs.

Program	Degree	University	# students	University information	Available to states
Professional Golf Management	BBA	Mississippi State University	7	The mission of the MSU PGA Golf Management program is to attract bright, highly motivated men and women, educate and train them, qualify them for membership in the PGA of America, and place them in highly desirable jobs in the golf industry. We will do this by helping students develop their playing ability, designing a curriculum that prepares students for PGA testing and certification, and guiding students through a thorough education in marketing.	Alabama Arkansas Delaware Georgia Louisiana Tennessee Virginia West Virginia
Geological Engineering	BSGE	University of Mississippi	9	Provides a foundation in Geology and Engineering that will enable graduates to qualify as professional engineers in the earth science professions. Program provides the geological engineer (GE) with the capability and capacity to either 1) pursue a professional career in industry or in private practice, or 2) continue graduate level studies for a career in teaching and/or research.	Alabama Arkansas Georgia Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Oklahoma South Carolina Tennessee Virginia West Virginia
Political Communication	BA	Louisiana State University	11	Political communication is a concentration at the intersection of politics and the media. Students learn the skills needed to work in political campaigns, run for office, cover politics as a journalist, handle press relations, evaluate policy proposals and lobby government and policy makers.	Alabama Georgia Mississippi South Carolina Tennessee
Meteorology	BS	Mississippi State University	7	Trains for work in the field of meteorology within the media. A student selecting this program will obtain the background necessary (pending approval by the American Meteorological Society) to meet the qualifications to apply for the Certified Broadcast Meteorologist Seal of Approval from the American Meteorological Society (AMS) once working in television.	Alabama Arkansas Delaware Georgia Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Oklahoma South Carolina Tennessee Virginia West Virginia

## Special Programs Report

### ACM/EC Termination

The Academic Common Market/Electronic Campus (ACM/EC) will be terminated with the emergence of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. However, the discontinuation will have minimal impact on Alabama residents, since only two of 85 ACM/EC programs were offered by Alabama. More detailed information is provided below by SREB.

State	Baccalaureate		Master		Specialist		Doctoral		Totals
Alabama	1		1		0		0		2
Arkansas	0		4		0		0		4
Delaware	0		0		0		0		0
Florida	0		29		1		1		31
Georgia	0		3		0		0		3
Kentucky	0		0		0		0		0
Louisiana	0		0		0		0		0
Maryland	0		2		0		1		3
Mississippi	0		1		0		0		1
Oklahoma	0		0		0		0		0
South Carolina	0		4		0		2		6
Tennessee	9		14		0		9		32
Texas	0		3		0		0		3
Virginia	0		0		0		0		0
West Virginia	0		0		0		0		0
Totals	10		61		1		13		85

# Student Assistance Programs

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The Alabama Commission on Higher Education administers the following student financial aid programs. The FY 2015-16 awards are listed for each program.

## **Alabama Student Assistance Program (3,980 awards totaling \$2,597,122)**

The Alabama Student Assistance Program provides funds to help those students who demonstrate substantial financial need. It is the state's only need-based student aid program for residents attending postsecondary education institutions in Alabama.

## **Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (501 awards totaling \$667,619)**

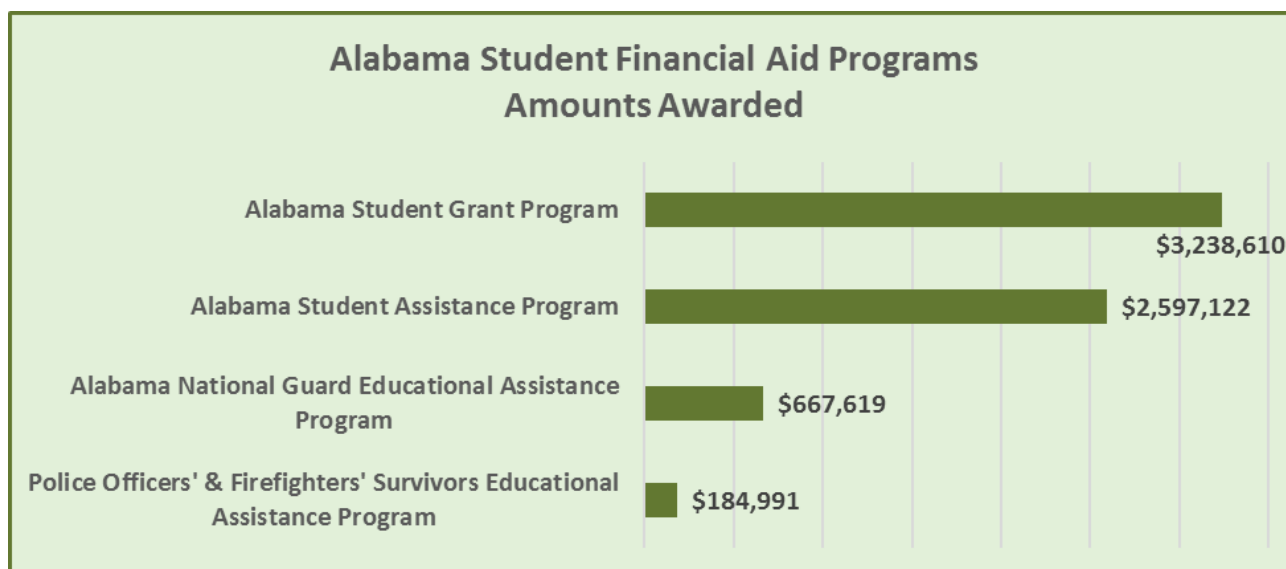
The Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program is designed to help professional members of the Alabama National Guard pursue undergraduate degrees and to a limited extent, graduate degrees. Active Army and Air National Guard members may receive a maximum of \$2,000 annually.

## **Alabama Student Grant Program (5,070 awards totaling \$3,238,610)**

The Alabama Student Grant Program is a tuition-equalization grant that provides financial assistance to Alabama residents enrolled in independent, non-profit Alabama colleges and universities.

## **Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program (22 awards totaling \$184,991)**

The Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program provides funds for tuition, fees, books and supply expenses for undergraduate studies at Alabama public colleges and universities for dependents and spouses of police officers, firefighters and rescue squad members killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty.



# Student Assistance Programs

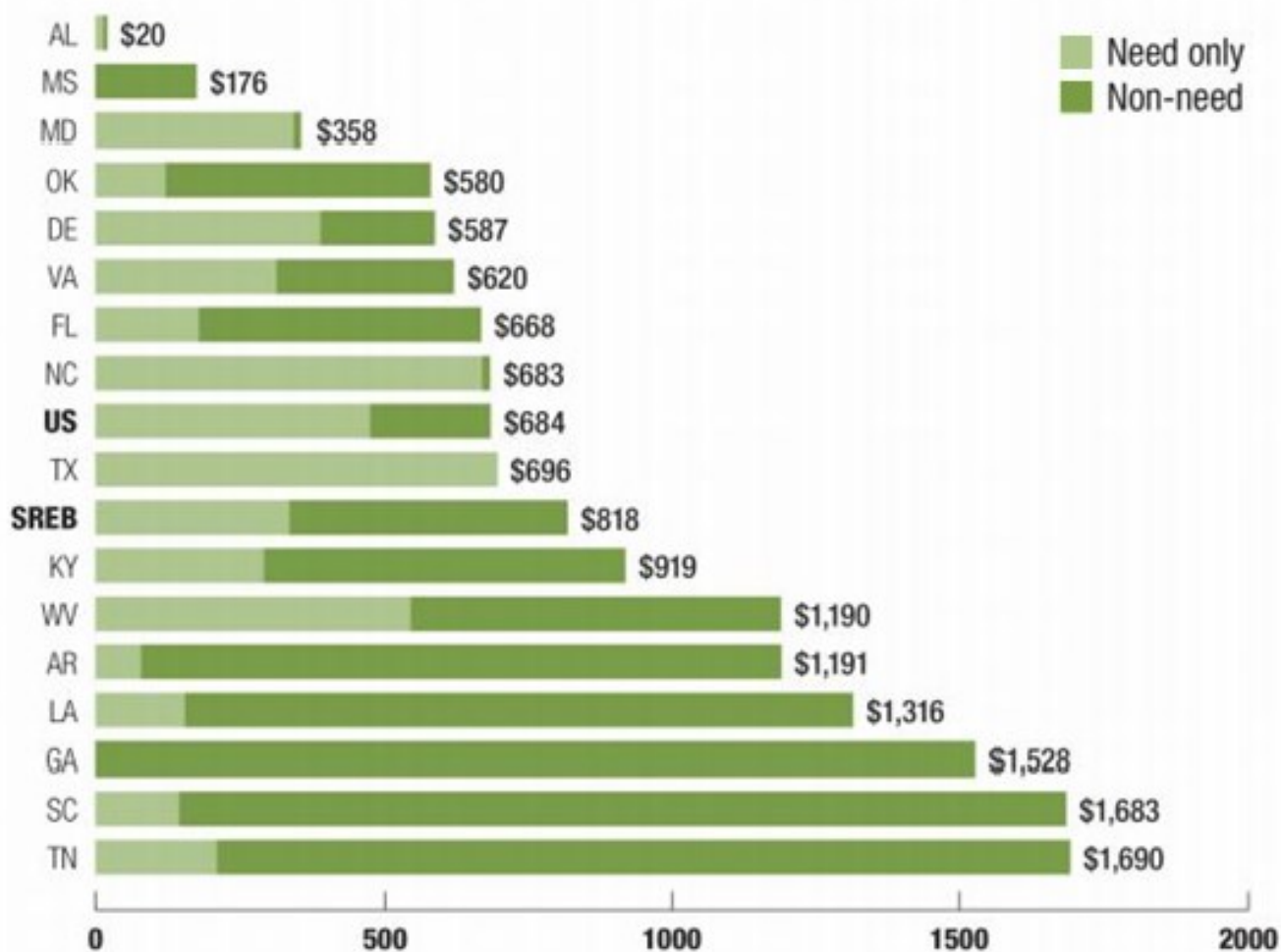
## Charting Affordability in Southern States

States have lost ground in college affordability at a time when the workforce needs more college graduates. Costs have shifted to students and their families even as poverty rose and incomes fell.

A new report from SREB sets the context for states as they consider the recommendations of the SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South. [Public Higher Education Affordability in the South: Regional Trends](#) charts trends in student debt, workforce demands, children in poverty and how higher education is funded — plus net price at different types of institution, tuition increases and state financial aid.

## State Financial Aid Awards

Per FTE, 2014



National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs, 2014.



## Acknowledgements

Executive Director Gregory G. Fitch announced his retirement effective December 31, 2016, ending a 45-year career in education. He has served as the state's higher education executive officer since July 1, 2006.

Commissioner Charles Ball had words of praise for the leadership Dr. Fitch has shown during his ten years at ACHE. "Dr. Fitch has brought a high level of experience to the agency during times of budget cuts and challenging educational issues. He always has had the best interest of students at heart."



Dr. Gregory G. Fitch



Dr. Fitch served as a board member for Alabama's Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (PACT) Program.

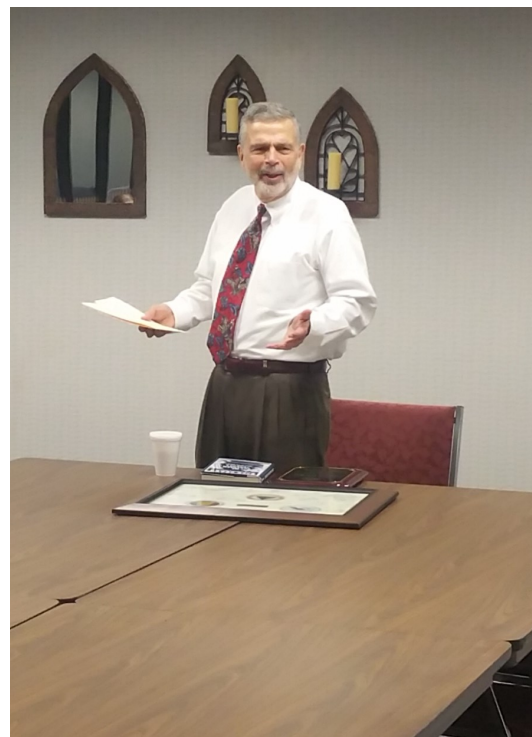
## Acknowledgements



Dr. Fitch was presented a resolution for his service on the CollegeCounts 529 Board.



Commissioner Charles Ball thanks Dr. Fitch for a decade of service at ACHE.



Commissioners and staff wish Dr. Fitch the best in his retirement.

